

The Magazine of the Federation of Jain Associations in North America

# JAIN DIGEST

SUMMER 1999

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COVER DETAILS ON PAGE 23

Jain Education International

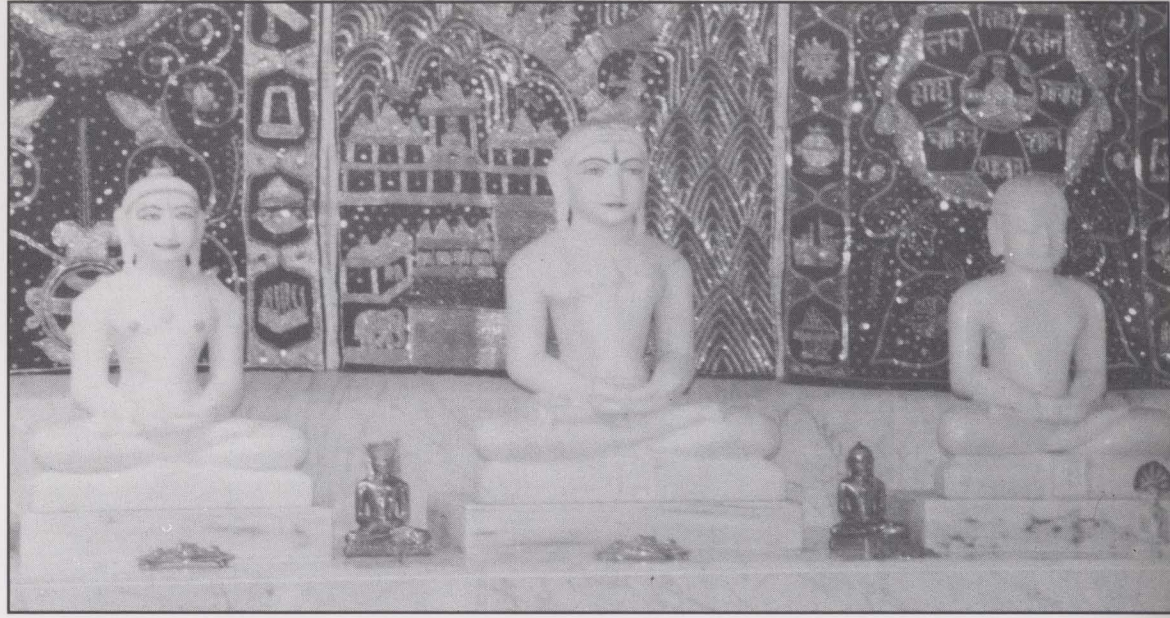
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**10TH BIENNIAL JAINA CONVENTION**  
Philadelphia, PA — July 2-5, 1999  
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# JAIN TEMPLE, WASHINGTON, DC



## JAI JINENDRA

अहो! अहो! श्री सद्गुरु, करुणासिंधु अपार  
आ पामर पर प्रभु कर्यो, अहो! अहो! उपकार (१२४)

Thanks! the Holy True Teacher!  
Unfathomable ocean of compassion;  
I'm highly obliged; Oh! good Teacher,  
The Pupil poor has no expression. (124)

शुं प्रभुचरणकने धरुं? आत्माथी सह हीन,  
ते तो प्रभुअे आपियो, वर्तु चरणाधिन (१२५)

What should I offer to you, Lord?  
In soul-comparison all is trifle;  
The soul is gifted by the Lord,  
I wish to act to your oracle. (125)

- Shri Atmasiddhi Shastra, Srimad Rajchandra -

We dedicate ourselves to ceaseless efforts of  
Acharya Sushil Kumarji and Gurudev Chitrabhanuji,  
in spreading the principles of Jainism  
among all the Jains settled in North America.

We congratulate the Executive Committee for their devoted service to JAINA.

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### Report Card, 1997-1999

As my term as President of JAINA draws to an end, I look back at the entire term with a sense of pride and satisfaction. Significant progress was made in many areas and today we are a stronger and more united organization. None of this would have been possible without your continued support and dedication to the organization. I thank the entire Jain community of North America for providing me the opportunity to serve as their spokesperson for the past two years.

The accomplishments and activities, which have made my Presidency so rewarding, are summarized in the following chronology of events. My visits to 30 plus Jain Centers in North America and my meetings with thousands of Jains where I discovered their faith in JAINA has truly touched my heart. Again, I deeply appreciate your support and help in carrying out the mission and goals of JAINA.

#### July 1997

The new Executive Committee is sworn in and takes over the administration of JAINA.

#### August 1997

JAINA launches the 'Patron' program aimed at establishing the financial stability of JAINA. Over \$56,000 was raised with the help of 200 dedicated Jain families. Each of these families promised to contribute \$251 annually to JAINA, thereby establishing the permanent financial stability of JAINA.

#### September 1997

The first JAIN DIGEST under the leadership of editor-in-chief Lata Champsee and publishing editor Navin Jain is sent out on time as I had promised at the convention. Subsequently, all the following issues have come out on time – maintaining the life line of JAINA with its constituents. Additionally, *JAINA FOCUS* is published and continues to be published regularly as needed. Thus far, eight have been published.

#### October 1997

JAINA's newly elected executive committee and its' Board of Directors meet at Siddhachalam. A historic decision is made to equip JAINA headquarters with a part-time Executive Director to assist the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the Jain Centers, and the entire Jain community of North America. This decision helps make JAINA a professional organization, which is more responsive to the needs of its constituents. JAINA contributed \$5,000 to the Tulsa Jain Sangh to help them build their new temple. JAINA enrolls more women and youths as office bearers. My enrollment of Lata Champsee and Navin Jain as editor-in-chief and publishing editor of JAIN DIGEST, respectively, are true examples of this commitment.

#### November 1997

JAINA sponsors a regional YJA convention at Raleigh, NC. This convention is attended by

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IN NORTH AMERICA

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## PUBLICATION DATES AND DEADLINES

Spring (March)	February 15
Summer (June)	May 15
Fall (September)	August 15
Winter (December)	November 15



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Edmonton	Cherry Hill	<i>Associate</i>	Phoenix
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	IL, OH, IN, MI, NE	Southwest	AZ, NM, TX, OK, CO, UT
Northeast	ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NY,	West	AL, WA, OR, CA, NV, ID, MT,
	PA, MD, DE, NJ, VA, DC		WY, HI

## JAINA FOCUS

JAINA publishes the JAINA Focus monthly newsletter  
for administrative purposes. It is sent to all member  
organizations and committee members of JAINA. All  
news items for publication in the JAINA Focus must be  
sent to the Editor by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month:

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR OF JAIN DIGEST

We encourage our readers to send their questions, comments or views on current issues or concerns facing the Jain community  
of North America to the Editor in Chief, Lata Champsee. We endeavor to publish all letters, space permitting. The JAIN  
DIGEST reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and/or space. All letters must include the sender's name, address and  
phone number to be considered for publication.

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JAINA      Jain BBS  
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Young Jains of America  
<http://www.yja.edu/>

Jai Jinendra !

Jain Centres of North America are bursting with religious activities. We are building centres everywhere, religious camps, JAINA convention, YJA convention and other regional conventions, pathshalas are opening in many cities. Numerous scholars, monks and preachers are visiting centres all over North America. All this to enhance our spiritual life to guide us in inching towards moksha. Where do we really stand after all these pious activities?

The word "Recognition" creates such an uproar in us that we forget right or wrong, fair or unfair, true or untrue, necessary or unnecessary, meaningful or meaningless; we simply long for it. We love to bask in the glory of momentary recognition, and we get upset when someone else gets recognition instead of us (no matter how deserving the person is) not to speak of many deserving individuals simply left out due to petty politics of those in power. Let's leave our egos behind in all of our community endeavors.

*Lata Champsee*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** *(continued)*

over 100 youths. The ground breaking ceremony for the Jain temple in North California also takes place. JAINA extends its full cooperation and support.

**December 1997**

JAINA organizes an essay competition for youths and adults. JAINA launches a new website, [www.jaina.org](http://www.jaina.org). I meet the leaders of 29 European Jain organizations in London and speak to them about JAINA and its activities. I visit the Leister, UK, temple and meet the leaders of the Jain Samaj of Europe. Dr. L.M. Singvi, India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, invites me to dinner for a discussion on common issues of concern.

**January 1998**

A press conference is held at the Chelmsfor Club in Delhi, which is attended by all the major news organizations in India. It lasts for over 2 hours. The press is briefed about JAINA and its activities and JAINA gets an enormous amount of publicity through at least 100 newspapers. My appeal of unity to all Jains on the Samat Sikhhar issue and JAINA's consideration of a Mahavir Ahimsa Award, equivalent to the Nobel Peace Prize, were headlines in the newspapers.

I meet the US Ambassador to India, Richard Celeste, and

briefed him about the activities of JAINA. I am interviewed by *The Statesmen* and *The Times of India*. Both interviews added to JAINA's visibility and name recognition. Dr. Manibhai Mehta, the past President of JAINA, led Jain doctors and volunteers to the Bidada Medical Camp, where we work until the 18th of January. JAINA makes donations for a Bhuj blood bank, and I was fortunate enough to perform the ground breaking ceremony for the blood bank.

On January 21st, I meet His Excellency the Dalai Lama in Bombay and had a brief discussion with him related to the increasing cooperation between Jains and Buddhists. After this meeting, I proceed to Veerayatan and inaugurate the children's cataract camp. There, I address a gathering of 2,000 people and inform them about JAINA and its activities. From there, I go for a pilgrimage to Samat Shikhar in order to help prepare for the Jain Sangh to be taken there in October. In the last few days of January, I visit Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharm and Dr. R. Venkataraman, both past presidents of India. I brief them on JAINA and its activities.

**February 1998**

I went to the 'Nokha' site of the annual gathering of Terapanthi and address a large gathering about the activities of JAINA. I met Acharya Maha Pragya, head of Terapanthi, and briefed him about the activities of JAINA. Then, I visit Ahmedabad. There, I meet Jain leaders and address a large gathering at the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce. Afterwards, I visit 1,500 orphans, victims of the Latur earthquake, in Pune.

*Continued on page 4*

**Meet the new committee chairperson**

**Mahavir Memorial**  
Manoj Dharamsi



**March 1998**

The JAINA Executive Committee met in Philadelphia and approved a proposal to send each of the Jain centers a multimedia CD-ROM published by the Pluralism Project, Harvard University, entitled *On Common Ground—World Religions in America*. This CD-ROM has 110 pages on Jainism.

The Samarpan Jain Sangh of Philadelphia presents their winning bid for the 10th Biennial JAINA Convention. The Executive Committee unanimously approved a resolution to hold the '99 JAINA Convention in Philadelphia.

**April 1998**

The ground breaking ceremony for a temple takes place in Atlanta on April 5th. Acharya Chandnaji and Shubhamji conduct the ceremony.

**May 1998**

On May 2nd, the Jain Center of South Florida performs a Bhumi Pujan on a newly acquired 3.9 acre area for their temple. Gurudev Chitrabhanu performs the ceremony.

JAINA sponsors the first ever Pathshala Teacher's Convention on May 23rd and 24th. With the help of the Jain Center of Greater Boston, JAINA is able to gather more than 80 teachers. These teachers develop a uniform curriculum for children ranging from the grades of kindergarten to the 12th grade. This curriculum will be available in the near future.

On Memorial Day weekend I attended Cherry Hill temple's eighth anniversary where two 6' x 8' marble pats of Palitana and Girnar were inaugurated.. Gurudev Chitrabhanu and Sadhvi Shubhamji were present at this first such installation in North America.

**June 1998**

On June 9, 1998, a cyclone devastates the west coast of India. Thousands died and many were left without shelter and food. Once again, JAINA was there. JAINA sends thousands of pounds of clothes to be distributed to the needy and JAINA adopts two villages, Ragha and Shekhadia for complete rehabilitation. At this moment, 75% of the reconstruction of both villages has been completed. I visited the area twice and saw the work being done first hand.

**July 1998**

The Third YJA convention takes place in Houston. Over 725 young Jains participate from July 2nd through the 5th. Gurudev Chitrabhanu, Sadhviji Shilapiji and myself were the keynote speakers. JAINA contributed \$5,000 to support our youth.

The same weekend, the Jain Society of Greater Detroit successfully completes a historic Prathista Mahotsava ceremony for their newly constructed temple during the July 4th weekend. Myself, along with the JAINA Executive Committee, participate in the ceremony.

**August 1998**

Jain centers across North America celebrate Paryushana and Dash Lakshana Parva. Thousands of Jains participate in these activities. Hundreds of them fast during these holy days.

**September 1998**

JAINA becomes an official sponsor of the World Parliament of Religions, to be held in Capetown, South Africa on December 1st through the 8th, 1999.

JAINA applies for membership to the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). I met Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in New York and submitted a memorandum to him regarding the Year 2001 celebration of Mahavir's 2600th birth anniversary.

**October 1998**

One of the lifelong dreams for many Jains is to make a pilgrimage to Samet Sikhar. This is the place from where 20 Tirthankars attained Nirvana. I, along with 64 Jains from North America, go on a pilgrimage to Samat Shikar that lasts from October 1st to the 14th. This is the first Jain Sangh ever from North America to our motherland. Dilip V. Shah of Philadelphia takes care of all the details to make this yatra successful.

The Sangh is received with much fanfare everywhere it visits, including Patna, Bihar, where Governor S.S. Bhandari hosts a luncheon for the Sangh.

JAINA also participates in the silver jubilee celebration of Veerayatan and donates a Phaco-emulsification machine for cataract operations to Veerayatan.

**November 1998**

JAINA adopts a new mission statement—*From Cradle to Cremation—JAINA is there*. The North American Jain Families Assistance Program helps a cancer stricken family in Northern California, raises funds for a woman from India who needs a bone marrow transplant, and helps a Canadian student in her studies.

JAINA's Executive Committee, its' Board of Directors, and the JAINA Charitable Trust meet in Chicago. The Trust announces a \$5,000 grant to any center which is building a non-sectarian temple.

JAINA sponsors a teacher's workshop in Raleigh, N.C., organized by the Jain Center of North Carolina.

### December 1998

The JAINA Charitable Trust sends \$35,111 for the Bhagyodaya Teerth Medical College, Sagar, M.P.

The Samarpan Jain Sangh publishes a registration form and provides details for the 10th JAINA Convention. I appoint Dr. Mahendra Pandya as the Chairman of the JAINA convention committee.

JAINA, with the help of Veeryatan, applies for a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Aid foundation to bring the mortality rate of children under 5 from 115 to 75 per thousand per year in the Nalanda district of Bihar.

### January 1999

JAINA, with 48 doctors and volunteers, under the leadership of Dr. Manibhai Mehta and myself, goes to the 25th Annual Bidada Medical Camp and treats 17,000 needy patients. Funds for 25 heart surgeries were collected from Jains in North America.

I meet Home Minister Advani, opposition leader Dr. Manmohn Singh, Minister of Information and Broadcasting Pramod Mahajan, ex-Ministers Khurana and Sushma Swaraj to brief them about the planning for the 2001 celebration for Lord Mahavir's 26th Centenary Celebration and to request their cooperation. Minister Pramod Mahajan gave me a commitment to produce a documentary on Mahavir during the 26th Centenary birthday celebration of Lord Mahavir.

### February 1999

I visit Dubai and attend three gatherings and brief Jains there about the activities of JAINA.

The JAINA Executive Committee meets in Los Angeles and decides to become a sponsor member of the Federation of Jain Academics.

On February 28th, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee accepts demands by JAINA and the Mahavir Memorial Committee and sets up the National and International Committee to celebrate Lord Mahavir's 2600th birthday as well as the 100th Nirvan Anniversary of Shrimad Rajchandra and V.R. Gandhi.

### March 1999

Jirnodhdhar Committee helps Navkar Center of Ahmedabad in carrying out their humanitarian work. The Southeast regional convention of YJA in Atlanta proves to be a success for all involved.

### April 1999

Baltimore, St. Louis, Louisville, Kentucky, and Hartford, Connecticut announce a Prathista Mahotsava in May, June, and July respectively.

JAINA sends a stress test machine and 10,000 pounds of clothes to India to help the needy. The 2nd Pathsala Teacher's workshop takes place in Houston and proves to be very successful.

### May 1999

Baltimore and St. Louis celebrate the Pratistha Mahotsava of their temples.

Chicago organizes a teacher's workshop during the Memorial Day weekend.

JAINA's delegation meets the Consul General Mrs. Tripathi on the 11th of May and briefs her about JAINA's activities. Subsequently, she offers her help in setting up the India booth at the convention.

JAINA launches a Kosova relief fund and a JAINA delegation visits the United Nations and presents a \$10,000 check for the Kosovar refugees to Director Kofi Asomani of the UNHCR Liaison's office.

Toronto celebrates the Silver Jubilee of the Toronto Jain Society on May 21st, 22nd, and 23rd.

### June 1999

Preparations for the convention in Philadelphia are at full speed.

As you can see, in the last two years JAINA has become more transparent, financially secure, more inclusive and nonsectarian. Humanitarian activities of JAINA has received national and international praise. It is fully responsive to its' constituents, confident in itself, and a world class organization, which promotes the principles of Jainism not only among its constituents, but also with the head of governments, ambassadors, consul generals, United Nations, American Red Cross, and many others.

I hope that JAINA will continue to grow and I wish good luck to the next administration. I may be stepping down from the Presidency, but I will continue to work for JAINA and Jain principles till my last breath.

See you all at the convention in Philadelphia.

Jai Jinendra!



Dhiraj Shah

## Executive Committee Meets in Philadelphia May 8, 1999

sThe meeting started at 10:30 A.M. with Namokar Mantra.

Dilip V. Shah, the Secretary read minutes of the last Executive Committee meeting in Los Angeles. The minutes were approved as written.

Jit Turakhia, the treasurer presented fund balances in various committees and he informed that financial reports and IRS returns for 1998 will be ready by May 15.

Dhiraj Shah reported on various activities since last executive committee meetings:

- Dinesh Dalal of Boston will be representing JAINA at the Harvard University's Project on Multiculturalism.
- JAINA will be represented by at least 9 delegates at the World Parliament of Religions in South Africa.
- The world community Services of JAINA has started a special relief fund for refugees from Kosovo. Dhirajbhai urged every one to generously donate to the fund. He meet with the UNCHR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) representative in New York on May 20 to present a check from JAINA.
- Dhirajbhai, Mahendra Pandya and Davendra Peer will meet with the Mrs. Shashi Tripathi, Counsel General of India in New York, and invite her to come to the Convention.
- Dhirajbhai urged everyone to write to the Census commissioner of India to protest their decision to include Jains as Hindus in the next Census of India.
- Dhirajbhai reported that all 56 centers have now paid their dues to JAINA.

Meeta Peer, Convenor of the upcoming JAINA Convention reported on the preparation for the convention. Rajni Shah, Champaben Bid and Vinod Shah asked questions and Dhirajbhai explained various ways JAINA has been helping the convention efforts. Dhirajbhai promised that JAINA will do whatever it can to

help. Many other chairpersons of various convention committees also presented their reports. Davendra Peer thanked all for coming and assured everyone that all the preparations for the convention are on schedule.

Anop Vora, Chairperson of the Patron Committee reported that 105 Patrons had paid up current year's dues. He showed the badges the JAINA Patrons will get at the convention and encouraged others to become a JAINA Patron.

Manoj Dharamsi spoke about the Mahavir Memorial Committee. He met in India with various Jain leaders to discuss coordination for the 2600<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary events world wide in the year 2001. He also discussed a proposal for Mahavir Peace Prize.

Dhiraj Shah reported on behalf of the World Community Service committee. 1,000 kg of used clothing and a stress test machine have been sent to India. The houses being rebuilt in the two adopted villages will be ready for occupancy before the monsoon season begins. Manibhai Mehta has one container load of medical equipment in Los Angeles ready to be shipped to India.

Kamlesh Shah of the membership committee sent request of the Hudson Valley Jain Sangh to be as associate member of JAINA. They sent the names and addresses of their 22 members and check along with the copy of their constitution. The application package was passed around and their application was approved by a voice vote without dissent.

Pravin Shah reported on his pathshala teachers' workshop in Houston in February. He offered to do the same for any center that can have 25 to 40 people interested and willing to commit 16 hours of studies and lectures. He and Parimal Pandya briefed on the updating of **www.jaina.org** website. They expect all the updating will be done in the next 60 days. He also reported of upcoming teachers' workshop at Chicago.

Continued on page 16

## IAINA Delegation Meets Consul General

[illegible]

Monarchs feeding on milkweed plants. Photo: David L. Denlinger, University of Minnesota



## JAINA's Convention Committee

The 10th Biennial JAINA Convention will be held in Philadelphia hosted by Samarpan Jain Sangh., convenors of the convention are Dr. Mita and Devendra Peer. The names of Convention Management Board is published on page 40. As reported in the last issue, the JAINA Executive Committee has appointed Dr. Mahendra K. Pandya, as the chairperson of 10th Biennial JAINA's Convention Committee to assist Convention Management Board of Samarpan Jain Sangh and he has chosen various committee members as was published in the last issue.

## World Parliament of Religions

As reported in previous issues JAINA is sending delegates to World Parliament of Religions in Cape Town, South Africa December 1999 Dr. Manibhai and Savitaben Mehta will be part of the delegation. For more information, please call 716/636-5342

## Pratishtha Mahotsav

Greater Baltimore Hindu-Jain Temple celebrated Bhagwan Mahavir Pratishtha Mahotsav on May 9, 1999. The Mahotsav began with a discourse by Gurudev Chitrabhanuji and a Bhavna program on May 8th. On May 9th a Snatra pooja was performed in the morning followed by a procession. Many Jain families participated in eighteen abhisheks. Gurudev conducted Pratishtha ceremony of Bhagwan Mahavir. Hundreds of attendees danced to the joy of this auspicious event of pratishtha. Number of Jains from neighboring states attended the celebrations. The event concluded with a swamivatsalya. For further information about the temple, please contact Kamlesh Shah at 301/838-9778.

## Philadelphia Museum of Art

Philadelphia Museum of Art is will have a special Jain art exhibition from June 26 to October 22 in the William P. Wood Gallery titled *Making the Path to Perfection: Art for the Jains in India*. Dr. John Cort from Denison University will lecture at the opening on June 26. On view will be two beautiful 15<sup>th</sup> century illustrated manuscripts of the Kalpsutra, a twelfth century carved image of meditating Jina, probably Mahavira and 17<sup>th</sup> century manuscript of Sangrahanisutra that illustrates the complex Jain exploration into the nature of the universe. This exhibition complements of the Philadelphia Museum of Art galleries of Indian Art. There are variety of Jain masterpieces on view such as the monumental 10<sup>th</sup> century granite "Mahavir" from Tamilnadu and two stunning metal images from western India – an exquisite 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century Rishabh Nath and a grand 12<sup>th</sup>-century goddess Ambika.

## Jains Mourn Loss of Munichandraj Maharaj

Pujya shree Munichandraj passed away on May 3, 1999 in Tithal, Valsad (Gujrat) at the age of 63. He died of pulmonary illness. Munichandraj was the eldest of three brothers collectively known as Bandhu Triputi. He was 17 years old when he took diksha under Guru Premsuriswarji Maharaj. He followed strict Jain rituals for 47 years before he came to U.S.A. in 1989 with Pujya Kirtichandji and Jinchandraj Maharaj.

Triputi Bandhu established Shantiniketan Sadhna Kendra in Tithal on the Valsad seashore in 1983. Acharya Shri Sushil Muni visited Shantiniketan in 1989 and invited Triputi Bandhu to Siddhachalam. In March of that year the three of them renounced their sectarian adherence and traveled overseas for the first time. From there on they worked tirelessly to break down the walls between different Jain sects. Munichandraj was a writer, thinker and also a very renowned poet. His message to everyone is "Live happy, fearless and peaceful life."

## JAINA at United Nations

On May 20, a JAINA delegation comprising of President Dhiraj Shah, First Vice President Mahendra Pandaya, Secretary Dilip V. Shah and Trustee Kirit Kapadia met Mr. Kofi Asomani, Director, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Liaison office, and Ms. Robyn Groves, Senior External Relations office, UNHCR Liaison office, at the UN headquarters in New York City.

The two UNHCR representatives were briefed about JAINA and its activities. Dr. Pandya presented Mr. Kofi Asomani with the books *Jainism* by Mr. Kurtz and *Jainas Philosophy of Religion* by Nagin Shah.

Dr. Dhiraj Shah presented Mr. Asomani with a check for \$10,000 to assist UN efforts in helping Kosovo refugees. Mr. Asomani thanked JAINA for such a generous contribution. Ms. Groves appreciated JAINA's humanitarian work.

## Global "Ahimsa" Day

There are some thirty four wars going on in the world today. A global ceasefire to promote Non Violence is needed. JAINA has been invited to join with the "United Religious Initiative" (California) to mobilize world religious forces and leaders in various countries to declare 72 hours (Dec. 31, 1999 – Jan. 1-2, 2000). Ahimsa days. This idea needs to be discussed in all the centers and action taken to promote lasting peace. Call Ramesh Shah for more information 440/442-4596 (4770 office).

## Inauguration of Jain Community Hall in Singapore

Gurudev Chirabhanuji flew to Singapore to offer his benediction at the inauguration of the Community Hall of the Jain religious society of Singapore on Valentine's Day in February of 1999. The Hall is called Jain Sthanak. Buildings renovation was made possible by a generous donation of \$500,000 by Shrimati Nirmalaben Doshi and by the valiant initiatives of Shri Nagindas Doshi, President of Jain Religious society of Singapore, for pursuing a project costing three million dollars.

In his presentation, Gurudev emphasized the need to be generous and to work for others. But, he added there is also the need to maintain a concern for one's selfless spiritual development and purity. "The temptation of heaven and the ignorant fear of hell eclipse our vision of the Self to observe our goals in life. Our feelings and concerns for other fellow beings – human and/or animal – arise spontaneously. Action inspired by desire of heaven or fear of hell are stifled actions. Such actions make us deviate from the Self. It is that inner Self that we need to discover and illuminate." The celebration was impressive and meticulously planned.

## Smt. Shushilaben Ramniklal Mehta Cardiac Institute Inaugurated

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, Mahavir Jayanti Day, the Smt. Sushilben Mehta Cardiac Institute, with up-to-date facilities for treatment, was inaugurated at a function held in Bombay. The land was a magnificent gift by Sir Kikabai Premchand Trust, and it was due to bold initiatives of visionaries like Shri Manubhai Shah of Ruby Mills that Rs.10 crores – 100 million was collected for this ambitious project.

The stirring speech of Shri Chitrabhanuji and the inspiring example of the moving spirits behind this Institute so moved the audience that nearly Rs.30 million were donated by the attendees immediately with Rs.20 millions being a generous donation offered by Shri B Arunkumar, in honour of his Mother in whose name the hospital has been established. In fact, the entire Mehta family has been a support to the project as have been philanthropists like Mrs. Bina Christopher, daughter of Chandubhai Doshi of Malaysia and it is this generosity that has made possible this ultra modern center which will be one of the best heart care institutes in the country.

## Biography of Late Shri U.N. Mehta

On the first death anniversary of Shri U N Mehta the founder of the Torrent Group and the shining star of the industrial galaxy of Gujarat, a function was organized in Ahmedabad, recently. The purpose of the function was to release his biography 'Aafato ni aandhi vachche samruddhi nu shikhar' written by Dr. Kumarpal Desai. The writing of the biography is as unique and touching as its content. Dr. Singhvi said that this biography has become a 'living voice' of Late Shri Mehta. He congratulated Dr. Desai for penning a successful life and extraordinary human endeavour.

## Dr. Kumarpal Desai Receives Award

The renowned Gujarati writer and thinker Dr. Kumarpal Desai has been chosen for this years coveted award, the "Diwaliben Mohanlal Mehta Award" for his outstanding and dedicated work in various fields of human activities and for upholding human values and cultural heritage. The award carries a cash prize of Rs.3 lacs, a trophy and a citation. The Jury which has unanimously chosen him for the award was chaired by Honorable Mr. Justice P.N. Bhagwati, former Chief Justice of India.



Dr. Kumarpal Desai has penned more than seventy books so far emphasizing human values and cultural heritage of mankind. He has also been regularly contributing columns in various front rank newspapers and periodicals. He has spread the message of the cultural heritage within and outside India and propagated the same through series of lectures and other programmes sponsored by national and international organisations.

## Samans Visit African Countries

Saman Sthitpragya and Saman Ashwani Pragya, disciples of Acharyashri Mahapragya, completed a two-month tour of several East African and Mid-East countries which included Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Ethiopia, Egypt and Israel. Their mission was to spread the message of peace, non-violence, and ecology based on the teachings of Lord Mahavira, and to teach Preksha Meditation, Anuvrat and Science of Living. In Tanzania, the Samans addressed the Jain Sangh at the Indian School, and the program at the Rainbow International School in Uganda was hosted by the Jain Samaj. The Jain and Indian public in Zambia had the benefit of attending the program given by the Samans at the Zambia University and the AIDS Center. In Ethiopia, members of the Jain Samaj took great interest in the lectures and workshop on Preksha Meditation and Yoga conducted by the Samans. The visit to Israel was coordinated by the Ben-Gurion University. Samans presented a series of nine lectures and workshops in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and the Department of Medicine. Both, the faculty members and the students were very interested in learning about the non-violent and ethical behavior as advocated by the Jains. Following the success of this tour, the Samans have been invited for a re-visit.

## Canada

*Dr. Mahendra Mehta, Regional Editor*

### Toronto, ONT

Toronto Jain Society comes of age. During the Canadian long weekend of May 21-23, 1999 the Toronto Jain Society celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year of existence. The history of humble beginning of our Society in 1974 to its present full-fledged status as a major North American urban Jain organization will be described in next issue.

The celebrations started in earnest on Friday with Dandia Raas evening. Nearly 600 people came to dance to the energizing music of professional music group of 'SurSangeet'. Delicious snacks were provided by the food committee and the dancing went into wee hours of Saturday. The celebrations kicked off with good feelings amongst all the members.

Saturday was the busiest day of the celebrations. Guruji Manek Muniji cut the ribbon in presence of Samnijis Madhu

Pragyaji and Akshay Pragyaji and declared the day's celebrations to commence.

The exhibition and display committee had put in hours of hard work to present *Memories – Past and Present*, a collage of photographs, explanations, crisp poetic verses on some of the happenings and guided tour from the committee members. There was tremendous interest in viewing the presentation and to many of us, it brought many happy memories of our friends, outings such as dadawadi, religious retreats with Muniji Kirtichandraji and other sadhujis and sadhvijis and of course those regular annual Jain picnics. We also laughed at the toll 25 years had taken on all of us with balding heads and increasing midriff. We also remembered friends with happy faces that death had robbed from us.

A sumptuous lunch was provided by the food committee. The generosity of the

donors of the food was most remarkable.

The afternoon program started with discourses from Manek Muniji, Samaniji Madu Pragyaji and Akshay Pragyaji. The Young Jains presented a skit entitled *Karma—It's Your Call*. This was followed by recognition and honoring of Presidents and Trustees of Jain Society for last 25 years and some 20 volunteers for their exceptional services to the Society. In later part of the afternoon, the audience was invited to voice their comments, criticisms and suggestion for improvement of the functioning of our Society.

The evening meal was another delight for the palate. We are sure to have put on few pounds during this celebrations!

The evening cultural program was the crowning glory of the celebrations. Innumerable people had put in 3 months of

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## Midwest

*Manubhai Doshi, Regional Editor*

### Chicago, IL

The Society has been having Snātrapujā and Digambar Pujā every Sunday.

The religious classes are held on the third Sunday of every month. The campaign for increasing the attendance in the classes has been highly successful. The current registration for children classes stands at more than 200. Adults too are participating on substantial scale and more than 70 people have started attending the adult class. Chicago can now claim to have the maximum strength of students in the North American Jain classes.

Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated on 28<sup>th</sup> march. The declension contest was the highlight of the occasion. 28 students enthusiastically took part in the contest. The contestants were divided in three age groups. The subjects of presentation were i) Realization of Ahinsā through Jainism for the age group

10 to 14, ii) Relevance of Jainism to Modern Youths for 15 to 19 and iii) Jainism-Integration, Philosophy and Practice for above 19. The contestants had prepared themselves very well and the presentation was highly satisfactory. About 700 people listened their presentation with rapt attention. Prizes of 101, 51 and 25 were awarded to the three winners in each of the first two groups. Moreover, complementary prize of \$5 was given to each contestant. The prizes were given on behalf of Indira Mansukhlal Doshi Memorial Trust.

Arrangements for Ayambil were made on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> on the occasion of Chaitri Oli.

Shrimad Rajchandra Samādhi day was celebrated on April 11 and that of Laghurajswami on April 25. Both the programs were well attended.

### St. Louis, MI

The center holds its meetings on the third Sunday of every month. March meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> when Manubhai Doshi of Chicago, who was invited for the purpose, gave discourse on Search For Happiness. The discourse was followed by questions answers session.

Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The discourses were given by Virendra Shah and Dharmendra Tapodhan of New Jersey who were invited on the occasion.

The Center has planned its Pratishtha Mahotsav on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May at the time of Memorial weekend. The idols of Lord Mahavir and Lord Parshwanth will be installed in the Hindu temple of St. Louis. Panch Kalyanak and other Pujan, Swamivatsalya, cultural program etc. have been planned on that occasion.

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**Northeast***Vinay Vakani, Regional Editor***Essex Fells, NJ**

Jain Center of New Jersey (JCNJ) celebrated Mahavir Jayanti with joy and enthusiasm on April 4, 1999, attended by over 1800 area Jains. There were 10 cultural program entries. JCNJ has two Pathshalas and children from both Pathshalas participated in this program. It was gratifying to see that all participants had put in lot of efforts to prepare each entry. All entries were well received by the enthusiastic audience. A new Executive Committee of JCNJ for 1999-2000 was recently elected. The members are Virendra S. Shah (President), Diwakar N. Shah (Vice President), Kirit Shah (Secretary), Usha D. Gandhi (Treasurer), Sudhir N. Shah (Joint Treasurer), Nilesh Jhaveri, Priyavadan Jhaveri, Madhu Kamdar, Kirit Mehta, Dilip Shah, Raju Shah, and Jatin Shah. Vinay Vakani and Usha Gandhi were selected to represent Jain Center of New Jersey at JAINA. Aayambil Oli was celebrated on Mar 27th, and 28th,

1999. Over 75 people did Aayambil each day. Pathshalas at two locations are receiving overwhelming support from the parents. Over 150 children are enrolled in Pathshala classes. Some children are also learning Gujarati. Monthly Samuh Samayik is held regularly and over 150 people are participating to recite Bhaktamar Sutra and doing Samayik. Biweekly Swadhayaya classes are regularly held at the Temple and in Piscataway. For information about the upcoming programs please call 201/226-2539

**New York, NY**

Jain Center of America celebrated the Mahavir Jayanti on Sunday April 4, 1999 with Snatra Pooja in the morning and a colorful cultural program in the afternoon. Chief Guest was the Consul General of India, Mrs. Shashi Tripathi, joined by representative of Mayor Rudolph Guiliani, Mayor of New York City and Jain community leaders. The program consisted of thir-

teen folk dances and Dandia Raas entrees, performed by youngsters of age varying from 3 to 15. Entire program was professionally conducted by Hemant Shah, acting as the Master of Ceremony. Dr. Dilip Mukhtyar and Dr. Jyoti Gandhi summarized the activities of the last year and provided details of future plans of building a new temple. Approximately 1500 Jains from New York and Long Island attended the celebrations. On April 26, 1999, Jain Center of America submitted plans and made an effective presentation to the Appeals Board of the Town of Lake Success, Long Island. This is the beginning of the process for obtaining necessary approvals and permits for JCA's plans for building the temple in Lake Success. For further information about temple construction activity, please contact Rajni Gandhi at 718/962-6441.

*Continued on page 13***Southeast***Surendra Shah, Regional Editor***Atlanta, GA**

The activities under the guidance of President Madhuben Sheth are expanding. Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated on April 10 in presence of Prof. Padmanabh Jaini. The program consisted of a cultural program with a skit about karmas and how to shed them for purity of the soul. Professor Padmanabh Jaini was visiting Atlanta to take part in the launch of Emory University's Jain Study program. Emory is located in Atlanta and is a nationally recognized university in theology, business, and medicine. The society is looking forward to working with the school and learning from visiting scholars. As reported last time, Professor Jon Cort from Denison University in Grandville, Ohio gave an interesting talk about Jainism. The society held its annual

picnic in May, and over 150 members attended. The construction of the center for the society is progressing well. and a is expected to be finished by fall of 1999.

**Raleigh, NC**

Jain Study Center of North Carolina celebrated Mahavir Jayanti on March 28, 1999. The program started with Asthaprakari and Kaloj Puja. A cultural program was presented by youths ranging from age 2 to college students. The program ended with Swamivatsalya. About 300 people attended the program. Dr. Niraj Jain, Arun Zeveri, and Pandit Dhirubhai Mehta are planning to visit the center this summer. Mr. Arvind Shah hosted the Charlotte Jain group during their visit to the center on April 3, 1999.

**Miami, Florida**

Jain Center of South Florida celebrated Mahavir Jayanti on April 10, 1999 at the South Florida Hindu Temple. Samanjis Madhura Pragya and Akshaya Pragya from Jain Visha Bharati, Orlando graced the occasion. They gave a discourse on the meaning of religion. There was also a cultural program consisting of stavans, dances, bhanga, Tirthankar symbols, debate and discussion followed by swamivatsalya. The Center has published an elegant souvenir booklet and Jain directory of families in South Florida. The commitments for the building of the proposed Jain Center have been received. Pictures from the Mahavir Jayanti celebration were shown.

## Southwest

*Jadavji Kenia, Regional Editor*

### North Texas (Dallas Area)

Jain Society of North Texas celebrated Mahavir Jayanti on March 28, 1999 starting with Mahavir Jin Pooja followed by children's presentations. Young children sang Jain songs including Namokar Mantra. The second group projected color slides depicting Bhagwan Mahavir's life from his childhood to the last Samosaran with highly informative narration. The next group of Youth presented their learning of 14 Gunasthana with special emphasis on how Bhagwan Mahavir went through all the stages finally passing through number 14 (Ayogi Kevali) and reaching Moksha. Two weekly Swadhyay sessions along with regular weekly programs are continuing. We are also looking forward to the planned scholar visits starting with Shri Niraj Jain in June. Several JSNT members are planning to participate in the 10th Biennial JAINA Convention. JSNT contact is our president Sudhir Mehta at 972/612-1144, [sudhir\\_mehta@yahoo.com](mailto:sudhir_mehta@yahoo.com).

### Phoenix, AZ

The Jain Center of Greater Phoenix has set up an email [jain\\_phoenix@hotmail.com](mailto:jain_phoenix@hotmail.com). The Jain Center is also in the process of developing a web site. Details will be communicated soon.

Our annual Jain camp held on Feb. 13, 14 and 15, 1999 at Camp Tontozona in Payson, was a success as per the feedback collected at the end of the camp. It was attended by 70 people. The weather cooperated with us with three beautiful days. Several general sessions on Jainism were conducted. Reena Gosalia, Ashmee Kapadia, Kiritbhai Gosalia, Mahandrabhai Shah and Harshadbhai Desai conducted informative and interesting sessions. We had separate sessions for seniors conducted by

Vibhutiben Gosalia, and for kids 10

and under conducted by Varshaben Shah. Thanks to all the teachers. The highlight of the camp was the presentation by Mukeshbhai Desai on "astronomy" followed by viewing of stars and planets. The viewing lab was organized and sponsored by Mukeshbhai. The center thanks Mukeshbhai for that. Participants enjoyed and liked Jain Sessions, debates, team building projects, talent night, great food, games etc. Overall, it was another joyful camp. The center would like to acknowledge hard work and planning put together by event coordinator, Piyushbhai Shah, food coordinator Kusumben Savla, activity coordinator Ashmee Kapadia and communication coordinator Sulakshna Badjate. With help from many participants this event a grand success. Keep up the spirit. Thank you all. For those yummy oranges, we are thankful to Daneshvariben Sheth.

The Jain Center of Greater Phoenix celebrated Mahavir Jayanti on April 4th, 1999. The function was well attended. The center thanks event coordinators, Vibhuti Gosalia and Usha Shah. The center sincerely appreciates all the sponsors and everyone for their participation. The highlight of the program was the drama by our young kids. They did an excellent job. Hats off to all of them. Many people devoted their time and efforts for the event. The center would like to especially recognize: program coordinator—Varsha Shah; backstage props and stage decorations—Vaishali Shah and Rick Straka; costumes—Ushma Bavishi; backstage arrangements—Dipti Shah, Vijay Sheth and Piyush Mehta; drama directors—Piyush and Varsha Shah; Audio & Video—Piyush Shah; Script writers—Amit Gosalia and Kirit Gosalia. Great Job!!

A Picnic, open to all interested in Jainism, was held on May 2, 1999 at McCormick Railroad Park, Scottsdale. It was a fun filled

event with all sorts of games for adults and children. The Jain Center of Greater Phoenix paid for all expenses. Among the Jain scholars Subhashbai Sheth will be visiting phoenix from May 14 to 19 and Dr. H. Bharill from June 22 to 26. JCGP contact is Harshad Desai at 602/582-8437 or [Desai@az05.bull.com](mailto:Desai@az05.bull.com)

### Tulsa, OK

Tulsa Jain Sangh held the traditional "Mahavir Jayanti" puja on April 3, 1999. Almost all members of our Sangh including children actively and enthusiastically participated in the puja. The idols of Mahavir Swami and Parshwanath Swami were coated with silver foil and decorated with flowers. Members performed puja for almost two hours. Later we had the Shanti kalash and deevo followed by aarti. After the puja, there was a delicious potluck lunch at Gaurang Shah's house. TJS has been fortunate to schedule two scholars to visit Tulsa and share their religious knowledge and beliefs: Sunandaben Vohra from July 12-18 and Tarlaben Doshi from November 11-16, 1999. We are looking forward to learning the principles of Jainism and life in general from these two great scholarly ladies. TJS has made significant progress towards its derasar planning. The architectural design has been finalized and detailed bids have been obtained from different builders for construction. We certainly had some hurdles, but fortunately we are working our way through it with Mahavir Swami's skrupa. As soon as we resolve these issues, we will do the "bhoomi puja" later this year and invite all the readers to come and share the joy of this event with us. We urge all the readers of this article that they lend their generous support towards the derasar fund. Tulsa Jain Sangh contact is president Kanti Shah at 918/369-3163, [KANARU@aol.com](mailto:KANARU@aol.com)

**West***Chandrakant Parekh, Regional Editor***Los Angeles, CA**

Mahavir Janma Kalyanak organized by the Jain Center of Southern California (JCSC) on March 28 was well attended. Dr. Raman Khosla, a Vipassana meditation teacher, addressed the overflowing crowd. Vipassana meditation, the type that was reportedly practiced by Lord Buddha 2,500 years ago, is now being popularized by the Vipassana Centers located in various parts of the world. Dr. Khosla described the history of the Vipassana movement. Participants at a ten days course are expected to maintain silence and abstain from killing any living being, stealing, lying, sexual activity, and use of intoxicants.

Members of the Jain Center Youth Council (JCYC) participated in a clean-up day on March 21. The participants were divided into various groups and assigned to clean-up different areas of the Jain Center facility. The event provided an opportunity for students to earn service hours. A field trip to a neighborhood Gurudwara offered an opportunity for the JCYC members to learn about the Sikhs and their religion. The year-end exams for the Jain religion and language (Gujarati and Hindi) classes were scheduled for May 15, and the graduation ceremony will be organized in June. Parents are requested to enroll their children for the 1999-2000 classes by June 20.

The Building Committee coordinating the proposed expansion of the Jain Center had several discussions on planning requirements with the Planning Department of the City of Buena Park. In the meantime, the soil test of the adjoining lot has been completed. Preliminary results appear to be promising as they indicate that the underground contamination from the neighboring gas station is not widespread. As per city requirements a traffic consultant firm has been hired to study and prepare a traffic impact report. Please contact Kantibhai Shah at 949/831-8687 for further information about the JCSC activities.

**San Francisco, CA**

The first combined program of Construction Initiation Ceremony of Jain Bhawan and the celebration of Mahavir Janma Kalyanak organized by the Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) on April 17, 1999 was a great success. More than 550 people attended this historical event which was also covered by the San Jose Mercury News and several other local newspapers. Bhattarak Devendrakirtiji graced the occasion which was also attended by past and present Mayors of Milpitas, the County Supervisor, and Members of the Planning Commission. Mrs. Shardaben Shah from India concluded her Varshitap Pärnä at this joyous occasion.

The month of May is full of spiritual activities. The events planned from May 21 to 31 will include Shri Siddhachakra Poojan, Shri Bhaktāmar Poojan, Shri Bhagawan Janmotsava Nrutya-Nātikā, Vārtālābhs, Bhāvnās and Ārādhanās by Shri Narendra Nandu accompanied by a group of seven people. Bay Area Jain Americans (BAJA) are inviting all JCNC members to participate in BhaagDaud-Race for Literacy on May 23.

Jain Bhawan project is progressing well and the committees have been busy in many fronts such as construction plans, fund raising efforts, and negotiating contracts both in US and India. The team had invited construction bids from several of Bay Area's highly reputable firms and have narrowed down the selection list to three contractors. Contract with Indian supplier for all of the marble Pratimās, pillars and other artifact materials for the temple has been placed. Fund Raising team efforts led by Parveen Jain, Prem Jain, Kundi Kapadia and Girish Shah have been very successful.

The Jain Bhawan Committee accomplished a great deal during 1998. Donations of \$2.85 million have been pledged through 2001 of which approximately \$2.2 million

were collected in 1996 to 1998. Mahavir Janma-Kalyanak and Jain Bhawan Construction Initiation Ceremony was celebrated at the Jain Bhawan Site on April 17 under the direction of H. H. Bhattarak Devendrakirtiji. Please contact Jitendra Shah at 408/729-7916 for JCNC activities, Parveen Jain at 408/559-6987 for the Jain Bhawan update, and Seema Bhimani at 510/482-1357 for BAJA activities.

**Sacramento, CA**

Following the elections, the new committee members of the Jain Center of Greater Sacramento (JCGS) include Manoj Desai as President, Ashok Jain as Secretary, and Raman Jain as Treasurer. On May 16, the Swadhyay classes will be hosted at the home of Manoj Desai and on June 13 at the home of Vinod and Vijay Jain. For information about the activities and events organized by JCGS, please contact Manoj Desai at 916/791-4111, Ashok Jain at 916/984-7087, or Raman Jain at 916/363-5497.

**San Diego, CA**

Approximately 150 people participated in the Mahavir Jayanti celebrations organized by the Jain Society of San Diego on April 3, 1999. The program included a lecture by Dr. Christopher Chapple, stavans by Pareshbhai, stories by Jainshala kids, and a cultural program presented by about 20 Jainshala children. The event concluded with a swamivatsalya. Based on the Pathshala curriculum developed by JAINA, a class for the adults is now held on every second Friday of the month from 8 pm to 10 pm at the Shri Mandir. The classes are led by Dr. Kokila Doshi. Future plans include a camp, Sidhachakra Puja, and Paryushan celebrations with Samaniji. Jainshala and weekly navangi puja are organized regularly at the Shri Mandir. For further information, please contact Dr. Kokila Doshi at 619/260-4843.



## Canada *(continued from page 9)*

practice to present a very professional program that consisted of solo and group dances, young Jains ranging from 5-10 yr. age singing stavans, a western type orchestra with organs, flutes, trombones and clarinets putting Jain stavans to western music. The climax of the evening program was the play *Elaychekumar*. It was tastefully done, with gorgeous costumes, artful dances, well explained dialogues and sweet music. The play made one realize that the Toronto Jain Society had come a long way from its humble beginnings.

The Sunday program consisted of Bhaktambar Poojan conducted by Dilipbhai

Shah and his wife from Los Angeles and Paresh bhai and his troupe from San Diego. After aarti, mangal divo and evening meal, we were again entertained by singing with musical accompaniment from Pareshbhai. The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations ended with a tremendous sense of accomplishment by everyone concerned.

### Other News From Canada:

The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario presented first ever Ontario Medals for young volunteers to ten youths across the province on April 21. Amongst the youths was a young Jain Rekha Shah, daughter of

Indu and Vinod Shah of Ottawa.

Professor Harish Jain of McMaster University in Hamilton has been appointed one of the four members panel headed by former Supreme Court of Canada Justice, Gerard LeForest to conduct a sweeping review of Canada's human rights law and to report back with recommendation to Federal Minister of Justice.

Prakash Mehta of Kitchner, ONT and Chandulal Morbia of Windsor, ONT have joined the Regional Multifaith committees of their area and will contribute Jain perspective on RMC's deliberations.

## Midwest *(continued from page 9)*

Detroit, MI

The Society has been conducting Snātrapujā on every Sunday, Swādhyāy on every Sunday and Wednesday and Pratikraman on every 14<sup>th</sup> day of the Indian month.

Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated on March 27<sup>th</sup>. More than 500 people participated in the function. The occasion was also availed of for recognizing the outstanding services of Narendra Sheth to the Indian community. A plaque was awarded to him on that occasion.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Fund Raising Dinner was organized on April 30<sup>th</sup> which was attended by about 400 people. Pledges worth about \$111,111 were received on that occasion.

An open House was organized on May 2, which was attended by more than 300 people. That was the brain child of the students and teachers of the Jain study class. The subject was Jainism at a Glance through Me and My Class. The community had the chance to witness the understanding of Jainism and its practical application by the students.

### Cincinnati, OH

Jain Center of Cincinnati & Dayton celebrated for the first time Varshi Tap parna for Maltiben Shah on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The Columbia Jain Sangh brought sugarcane juice for the parna. In addition to Snatra Puja Dr. Balbhadra spoke to our youth members.

About 36 members of Mahavir Mahila Mandal of Chicago came to our center on May 15-16 and conducted Bhavana and Panch Kalyanak puja. The program was attended by more than 125 members.

On May 29-31 about 160 members of our center will participate in the Pratishtha Mahotsava of St. Louis. Three buses will take the sangh from Cincinnati to St. Louis and the entire trip has been sponsored by Mahendra and Sangeeta Vora.

On June 20, about 50 members of our center will participate in the Pratishtha Mahotsav at Louisville. The trip has been sponsored by Pravin & Ranjan Shah.

The center has reprinted English Pratikraman booklet for youth. This 24-page booklet can be ordered by calling Dr. Surendra Singhvi at 937/885-7414.

## Northeast *(continued from page 10)*

### Buffalo, NY

Singer Bharati Nanavati from Calcutta, accompanied by her husband Dr. Banerjee were the main attractions at the celebrations of the third Anniversary of Bhagwa Mahavir and Parshvanath Pratishtha Mahotsav at Buffalo, N.Y. on May 16, 1999. Large Number of Shravaks and Shraviakas participated in this celebration followed by swamivatsalaya.

### Hartford, CT

The Center cordially invites you and your family to participate in the Pratishtha Mahotsav on July 17-18, 1999. Pratimas of Rishubh Nath and Mahavir Swami will be installed in the Jain Sanctum in Shree Satyanarayan Hindu Temple, 11 Training Hill Road, Middletown, CT. Pratishtha Ceremonies will be conducted under the direction of Gurudev Chitrabhanuji, BhattarakDevendrakirtiji, Amerandra Muniji and others. For registration and information please contact: Faquir Jain 860/487-0607 Kajal Jain 860/675-8509, Padam Jain 860/561-0793, Piyush Shah 860/521-0702 Sudhir Shah 203/397-5086.

## Jain Temple Directory

The following list contains the contact information for all 57 member organizations of JAINA – the Federation of Jain Associations in North America. It was compiled by Jasvant Mehta, Coordinator, Jain Temple Directory of JAINA.

STATE OR PROVINCE	NAME OF TEMPLE OR CENTER	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE & ZIP	JAIN TEMPLE	HINDU/JAIN TEMPLE	JAIN FAMILIES	CONTACT PERSON	TELEPHONE
<b>CANADA</b>								
AB	Jain Society of Alberta	14225 – 133 Avenue	Edmonton, Alberta	–	Yes	45	Mr. Jasvant Mehta	780/435-9070
BC	Jain Center of British Columbia	2035 Westhill Dr.	W. Vancouver, BC V7S 3G3	–	Yes	50	Mr. A.K. Jain	604/922-6288
ONT	Jain Society of Toronto	47 Rosemead Ave.	Etobico, Ontario M8Y 3A5	Yes	–	500	Mr. Ashok H. Shah	416/221-5347
ONT	Jain Association of Ottawa-Carleton	3 Huntwood Ct.	Ottawa, Ontario K1V 0R3	–	–	15	Mr. Jagmohan Humar	613/736-0783
QBC	Montreal Jain Association	1830 Edouard - Laurin Blvd.	St. Laurent, Québec H4L 2C2	–	–	30	Mr. Raju Shah	514/855-8924
<b>UNITED STATES</b>								
AZ	Jain Center of Greater Phoenix	14853 N. 12th St.	Phoenix, AZ 85022	–	–	50	Mr. Kirit Gosalia	602/863-1073
CA	Jain Center of S. California-Los Angeles	8072 Commonwealth Ave.	Buena Park, CA 90621-0549	Yes	–	700	Mr. Kantilal Shah	949/831-8687
CA	Jain Center of Northern California	1840 Trudeau Way	San Jose CA 95132	Yes	Under Const.	500	Mr. Jitendra B. Shah	408/729-7916
CA	Jain Society of San Diego	9474 Black Mountain Rd.,	Sandiego, CA 92126	–	Yes	40	Mr. Rohak Vora	619/676-1150
CT	Jain Center of Greater Hartford	11 Training Hill Rd.	Middletown, CT 06475	–	Yes	60	Mr. Faquir C. Jain	860/487-0607
CT	Jain Center of Connecticut	24 Penny Lane	Woodbridge CT 06525	–	–	75	Mr. Sudhir Shah	203/397-5086
FL	Jain Society of Central Florida, Inc.	P.O. Box 181221	Casselberry, FL 32718-1221	–	–	60	Mr. Bhupendra Shah	407/352-0225
FL	Jain Center of Ft. Myers	6759 Highland Pines Cir.	Fort Meyers, FL 33912	–	–	10	Mr. Mahendra Mehta	941/561-2731
FL	Jain Center of South Florida	10135 S.W., 144th Pl.	Miami FL 33186	Yes	Under Const.	60	Mr. Shashi Jain	305/387-3879
FL	Jain Association of Northeast Florida	714 Park Ave	Orange Park, FL 32073	–	Yes	17	Mr. Sunil K. Shah	904/264-9599
FL	Jain Society Inc. of Tampa Bay	5509 Lynn Rd.	Tampa, FL 33624	Yes	Under Const.	55	Mr. Chetan R. Shah	727/781-8036
FL	Jain Assoc. of Palm Beach & Treasure Cst	3949 Whaleboat Way	Wellington FL 33414	–	–	20	Mr. Dilip Mehta	561/793-3564
GA	Augusta Jain Community	1421 Lukes Road	Augusta, GA 30907	–	Yes	12	Mr. Navnit Shah	706/863-6976
GA	Jain Society of Greater Atlanta	669 South Peachtree Rd.	Norcross, GA	Yes	Under Const.	200	Madhu Sheth	404/325-0627
IL	Jain Society of Metro Chicago	435 N. Route 59	Bartlett, IL 60103	Yes	–	900+	Mr. Prabodh R. Vaidya	630/985-9144
KS	Jain Association of KC.	6330 Lackman Road	Shawnee, KS 66217	–	Yes	15	Mr. Jitendra V. Mehta	913/599-4582
LA	Jain Society of Southern Louisiana	3829 Deer Creek Lane	Harvey, LA 70058	–	–	20	Mr. Santosh Shah	504/340-4283
MA	Jain Center of Greater Boston	15 Cedar Street	Norwood, MA 02062	Yes	–	150/200	Dr. Ashok Shah	508/226-1866
MD	Jain Society of Metro Washington	1021 Briggs Chaney Rd.	Silver Spring, MD 20905	Yes	–	380	Mr. Pravin dand	301/384-3367
MI	Jain Society of Greater Detroit, Inc.	29278 W. 12 Mile Road	Farmington Hills, MI 48322	Yes	–	300	Mr. Hemant Shah	734/427-2456
MN	Jain Center of Minnesota	1835 Polk St, NE	Minneapolis, MN 55418	–	Yes	40	Mr. Lincoln Gada	612/937-8492
MO	Jain Center of Greater St. Louis	725 Weidman Rosd	St. Louis, MO 63011	–	Yes	85	Mr. Shirish Ghelani	314/4341780
NC	Jain Study Group of Charlotte	7400 City View Dr.	Charlotte, NC 28212	–	Yes	55	Mr. Kiran Shah	704/503-5063
NC	Jain Study Center of N. Carolina (Raleigh)	309 Aviation Parkway	Morrisville, NC 27560	–	Yes	45	Mrs. Nisha Padia	919/467-2078
NJ	Jain Center of N.J. – Essex Fells	233 Runnymede Rd.	Essex Falls, NJ 07021-1113	Yes	–	800	Mr. Virendra Shah	732/329-3236
NJ	Jain Sangh of N.J. (Cherry Hill, N.J.)	3401 Cooper Ave.	Pennsauken, NJ 08109	Yes	–	200	Mr. Kirti C. Shah	609/983-2974
NY	Jain Center of America – NY	43-11 Ilthica Ave	Elmhurst, NY 11373	Yes	Under Const.	700	Ms. Jyotiben Gandhi	516/741-2892
NY	Jain Community of Buffalo	1595 North French Rd.	Getzville, NY 14068	–	Yes	54	Dr. Yogesh Bakhai	716/689-2382
NY	Jain Association of Elmira	108 Lincoln Rd.	Horseheads, NY 14845	–	–	10	Mrs. Suman Mehta	607/796-9065
NY	Jain Center of Syracuse	4013 Pawnee Dr.	Liverpool, NY 13090	–	Yes	12	Mrs. Manda Turakhia	315/622-3287
NY	Jain Sangh of Hudson Valley	18 Stephen Dr.	Hopewill Junction, NY 14533	–	Yes	22	Mr. Arvind Shah	914/226-6016
NY	Jain Society of Capitol District-Albany	450 Albany Shaker Rd.	Londonville, NY 12211	–	Yes	20	Mr. Rasik Chudgar	518/785-7470
OH	Jain Center of Cincinnati/Dayton	6798 Cincinnati-Dayton Rd.	Cincinnati, OH 45069	Yes	Yes	150	Mr. Dilip Punatar	937/848-3228
OH	Jain Center of Central Ohio, Columbus	1884 Dorsetshire Rd.	Columbus, OH 43229	–	–	80	Mr. Tansukh Salgia	614/899-2678
OH	Jain Society of Greater Cleveland	14835 Lancelot Ln.	N. Royalton OH 44133	–	–	100	Ms. Hansa Sutaria	440/582-6503
OH	Jain Center of Toledo	4336 King Rd.	Sylvania, OH 43560	–	Yes	12	Ms. Ila Mehta	419/865-2727
OK	Tulsa Jain Sangh	8707 E. 133rd Place	Bixby, OK 74008	Yes	–	25	Mr. Kanti J. Shah	918/369-3163
OR	Jain Society of Oregon	5432 S.W. Seymore St.	Portland, OR 97221	–	–	20	Ms. Surbhi Jhaveri	503/292-1965
PA	Jain Center of Allentown	4200 Airport Rd.	Allentown, PA 18103	–	Yes	15	Mr. Rashmi Sheth	610/868-1231
PA	Samarpan Jain Sangh	6515 Bustleton Ave.	Philadelphia, PA 19136	Yes	–	–	Mr. Devendra Peer	215/947-9083
PA	Jain Society of Pittsburgh	615 Illini Dr.	Monroeville, PA 15146	–	Yes	70	Mr. Suresh Shah	724/327-6570
PA	Jain Center of South Central PA	301 Steigerwalt Hallo Rd.	New Cumberland, PA 17070	–	Yes	18	Mr. Bhupendra Parekh	717/898-6173
TN	Jain Society of Middle Tennessee	2273 Dewitt Dr.	Clarksville, TN 37043	–	Yes	20	Mr. Pravin Mehta	931/648-9535
TN	Jain Center of Greater Memphis	2173 East Glenalden Dr.	Memphis, TN. 38139-5452	–	–	25	Mr. Visanji T. Gala	901/755-3600
TX	Jain Society of Houston	3405 Arc St.	Houston, TX 77063	Yes	–	350	Mr. Jitendra R. Shah	281/550-3155
TX	Jain Society of N. Texas/Dallas	538 Apollo Dr.	Richardson, TX 75080	Yes	–	180	Mr. Sudhir Mehta	972/612-1144
WI	Jain Social Group of Wisconsin	4135 S. Adell Ave.	New Berlin WI 53151	–	Under Const.	40	Mr. Kishor Chheda	414/797-9871
<b>No response from the following centers:</b>								
CA	Jain Society of Greater Sacramento	5330 Erickson Dr.	Granite, CA 95746				Mr. Manoj Desai	916/791-4111
CO	Jain Center of Colorado	10976 West 66th Ave.	Arvada, CO 80004				Mr. Praful Shah	303/420-7049
NY	Jain Society of Rochester	18 Wessex Ct.	Pittsford, NY 14534				Dr. Jaswant Jain	716/248-2622
TX	Jain Center of West Texas	1110 Juneau Ave.	Lubbock, TX 79416				Mr. Jitendra Shah	806/799-7174
WV	Prerana Yoga & Meditation Foundation	1302 Deer Run	Morgantown, WV 26505				Mr. Harakh Dedhia	304/594-1818

## Jiv Daya Committee

The Committee urges every Jain Centre to keep a collection box for Jiv Daya. The proceeds from this collection will go towards medical care and sterilization of animals at panjrapoles caring for animals, which is one of the major tenets of Jainism. Anyone interested for more information please call, Mr. R N Shah at 817/430-8638.

## Membership Committee

JAINA's strength is growing every week, every month and every year. At a executive committee meeting held on May 8th in Philadelphia, JAINA has approved one more member center.

Please join us in welcoming – Jain Sangh of Hudson Valley, NY to JAINA family. For learning more about benefits of becoming a new member center and application requirements, please contact Kamlesh Shah, Committee Chairman 301/838- 9778.

## Patrons Committee

Please stop by at the Jaina booth at Philadelphia JAINA Convention and pick up your patron badge and lapel pin, if you have renewed 1998-99 Patron Membership. The patron badge will allow you and your spouse to sit in one of the front rows of the plenary session. You can renew or become a new member, by signing up at the same booth. Anop Vora, Committee Chairman

## Pilgrimage Committee

First ever JAINA Pilgrimage to Samet Sikhar last October has received praise from a lot of people. The next pilgrimage is planned for some of the most important temples of Rajasthan and Gujrat. Preliminary itinerary calls for visits to temples of Ranakpur, Jesalmer, Aabu, Sankheshwar and Palitana. We will also visit many other temples on the way. The 16-day pilgrimage will most likely begin on January 20, 2000. Complete details will be announced at the 10<sup>th</sup> JAINA Convention in Philadelphia. If you have suggestions or would like to help with this pilgrimage, please call Dilip V. Shah, Committee Chairman at (215)561-0581

## World Community Services Committee

**NOW IS THE TIME TO HELP.** Pictures on the TV are not pretty. The images are reminiscent of the most disastrous humanitarian crisis of this decade. Thousands and thousands of refugees are fleeing their homes into uncertain and dark future. History and the politics of the conflict in KOSOVO are difficult to understand. But the cries of babies, tears of women and sadness on the faces of men are all too real to ignore.

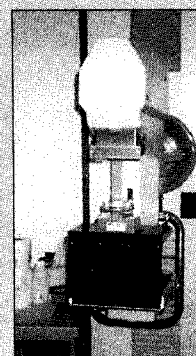
According to the United Nations inter-agency donor alert, 50% of the 650,000 refugees as of April 16, are under the age of 18 and 85% of adult population are female. WFP (World Food Program agency of the UN) has sufficient food supplies in the region for only 100,000 persons for the first three months. Nutritional status of refugee children will rapidly deteriorate. These children have been in war situation for about a year before their exodus. UNICEF will deliver emergency food items specifically targeted at young children as every fifth child is found to be stunted.

We, the followers of Lord Mahavir, steadfast followers of Ahimsa (Non-Violence) and Anukampa (Compassion) cannot sit idly, plug our ears or shut our eyes in the face of mounting tragedy. We must do our share to reduce the burdens of these refugees. Just as we did for refugees in Rwanda and cyclone hit Kandal, JAINA, has set up an emergency relief fund for Kosovo. JAINA is appealing each of you to donate what you can for this looming crisis. Time to act is now. Refugees are facing starvation, shortage of drinking water and threats of epidemics like cholera. Let us try to win over hatred by providing hope to those who have lost everything including family members. As a Jain, it is our highest moral obligation to respond to the needs of helpless victims of this tragedy. Your tax-deductible (in USA) contribution will make a remarkable difference in the lives of these innocent victims.

In case of Rwandan refugees, we worked with the American Red Cross. In case of Kosovo, we plan to work with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees. Please send your check payable to JAINA and mail to Bachubhai Ajmera, 1502 Univ. Blvd. Langley Park, MD 20783. Time to act is today. There isn't a moment to waste.

## JAINA Donates Mammography Machine

World Community Service of JAINA is sending a mammography machine to V.S.Hospital Ahmedabad, Gujarat to help the needy people of Gujarat for early detection of breast cancer. Machine was donated to Jaina by Dr.Dhiraj shah, President of JAINA. Machine will be shipped to India within a few days by Bhadresh Dhila, co-chairman of World Community service at no cost to JAINA. This is the second mammography machine which JAINA has sent to India. Since JAINA is registered under Indo-U.S. bilateral agreement no custom duty is involved.





## JAINA Sends “Stress Test” Machine and Used Clothes

JAINA donated a “STRESS TEST” Diagnostic machine worth \$30,000 for investigating heart diseases, to Shri K.V.O. Jain Mahajan Diagnostic Center of Bhuj – Kutch. No such facility is available in entire district of Kutch, population 1.2 million. This machine will help local needy people for evaluation of their heart problems and will save a trip to large cities like Bombay costing thousands of rupees, avoid unnecessary and painful travel and loss of wages. The machine was donated by Dr. Pravin Mehta of Buffalo, NY.

JAINA is also sending 100 kgs of used clothes to Diwaliben Mohanlal Mehta Charitable Trust to be distributed in many parts of India, where needed. JAINA is one of the Premier Indian – American Organizations involved in charitable projects throughout the world and particularly in India.

For more information, you may contact Mr. Bhadrash Dhill, Co-Chairman 301/587 5797.

## Mahavir Memorial Committee

Mahavir Memorial committee was established to celebrate the 2600th anniversary of Lord Mahavir in year 2001. A meeting of the members of the Mahavir Memorial committee will be held from 2:30 pm to 4 pm on Friday, July 2, 1999 at the JAINA Convention, in the Quaker Room of the Pennsylvania corridor located at the lower level of the east wing of Valley Forge Sheraton Hotel. Please plan to attend the meeting and share your ideas and what you can do for the celebration of this great event in the year 2001.

*Continued from page 6*

Pravin Mehta reported on the activities of YJA. Bids are being evaluated from 4 centers for the next YJA convention. He also reported that YJA is actively participating in the JAINA Convention. He stressed need for more regional YJA conferences.

Kirit Daftary of Jirnodhdhar committee reported that Virendra Shah of Los Angeles will be the vice chairman of their committee. He also requested that the name of his committee be changed to Tirthodhdhar Committee. Dilip V. Shah seconded the change of name motion and was approved without dissent.

Prem Jain spoke of the expansion plans of their temple in San Francisco. He offered JAINA to open a permanent headquarter in their temple complex. Every one applauded the offer and an ad hoc committee was proposed by Dhiraj Shah and seconded by Mahendra Pandya to examine the feasibility of establishing a permanent JAINA head quarter and also possibly other regional offices. Dilip

## First Mahavir Jayanti Celebrations in India after 25 years

In 1999, the 29th day of March may have marked the last Mahavir Jayanti of this millennium but it was one of the first Mahavir Jayanti celebrations officiated by Shri Chitrabhanuji in India after over 25 years. The function was held at Bhaidas Hall of Mithibai College in Mumbai. More than 2,000 people attended.

On this occasion Gurudev said, “Mahavirhood is hidden in all of us, just as gold is hidden in the gold mines. When we purify the gold from the dross and liberate the gold from restraining elements that it is bound by in nature, we begin to realize the 24 carat gold. Then it does not matter from where gold came: it is pure gold. If we understand this potential for divinity within each of us, the misidentification with the dross ends and then we can attain Mahavirhood.”

## IMJM Plans Retreat in Niagara Falls

Every one is welcome to a discussion group at the annual International Mahavir Jain Mission (IMJM) retreat in Niagara Falls, Canada on Aug. 14 and 15 with keynote speaker Dr. Padmanabh Jaini and other scholars. To participate in this event or for further information please contact Leela Gudka at 416/299-3627 or [sgudka@sprint.ca](mailto:sgudka@sprint.ca).

V. Shah, Jit Turakhia and Jagat Jain were named to this committee.

Dilip V. Shah proposed that in view of the fact that Dhiraj Shah has been handling a lot of work related to filing USAID reports and dealing with other Jain organizations around the world and application as NGO status with the UN, he be named chairperson of a new “Governmental & International Relations Organizations Committee”. The motion was seconded by Manibhai Mehta. Jit Turakhia suggested that in light of our established practice of President not heading any committee, Dhiraj Shah’s committee chairmanship should begin after he leaves office as president of JAINA (July 7, 99). The motion was amended and was passed unanimously.

Dhirajbhai took notice of the fact that this was the last meeting of this executive committee and he thanked all the members of the Executive Committee for their cooperation.

Executive Committee paid tribute to Munichandra Maharaj and others by observing one minute silence. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M. with recitation of Namokar Mantra.

## Celebrating 25 Years *Jain Society of Toronto*

by Keshav Chandaria

In 1974, J.D.Shah called meeting of the Jains in Greater Toronto and established Jain Society. During the year they had paryushan parva and samvantsari pratikaman and first ever picnic was held at Center Island. Mr. Jayant Thacker became the first life member.

In 1975, J.D. Shah was re-elected as President of the Society. Manubhai Shah brought "Mahavir Swami" pratima from India. With this pratima, Gharderasar was established at Remilaben and Talakchand Doshi's house. Samayak was introduced during that year.

In 1976, Shan Jain became the President. Society started celebrating Diwali.

In 1977, Vasant Seth was elected President and Society's constitution was established. Paryushan Parva for 8 days was celebrated.

In 1978, under the presidency of Kirti Shah, Jain Society got approval of Charitable organization. The main motive and goal of the Society was to maintain unity of all Jains at the Society. Life membership started increasing. It came to 75 in year 1978.

In 1979, during the presidency of Sudhir Gandhi newsletter communication was improved, membership also started increasing and Society started recognizing the services of the members.

In 1980, during the presidency of Shan Jain, members started thinking of having their own place for Jain Society. All Jain festivities were observed.

In 1981, under the Presidentship of B.N.Shah people who had Tapasya were honoured. Sushil Muniji, Ghitrabhnuiji and others learned people started visiting Toronto often and everyone were requesting to have a small place of worship of our own.

In 1982, momentum to have our own place started under the Presidentship of Shan Jain at insistence of Sushil Kumarji. Pledge by Naresh Jain of \$5000 boosted to have our own accommodation.

In 1983, under the Presidentship of Ramnik Kothari, people started looking for suitable building and accommodation which can help Jains to be together. Ramesh Jain, living in Etobicoke spotted property at Parkland Ave. and informed Motibhai Champsee who is in the Real Estate business. Few people went to see the property and had a Jain meeting. It was decided to acquire 247 Parklawn Ave. Fund Raising Committee was established and Ramesh Jain, Moti Champsee, Talakchand Doshi, Naresh Jain, Keshav Chandaria, Mohanlal Mehta and Manhar Sheth took the initiative to raise funds for the property. We had approximately \$30, 000 in funds. Chandaria Family gave it a boost by putting another 50% of the amount. Once momentum was created, decision to acquire 247 Parklawn Ave. was taken on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1983. Shanti Shah carried out all legal work.

This building was renovated and converted to our requirement and named Jain Centre. Officially, we moved into it on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov'83.

First pathshala was established by Lalit Pansar and Balbhadra. Board of Trustees was established during that year and following Trustees were elected: Keshav Chandaria, Naresh Jain, Mohanlal Mehta, Ramesh Jain, Manhar Sheth. Keshav Chandaria was acting as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

In 1984, under Ramnikbhai Kothari, Sub-Committee for building maintenance was formed and celebrities started coming to lecture. Induben Dhanak's program was first organized at the Society.

In 1985, Pravinchandra Shah became President. Constitution was amended to bring more amicability amongst the members of the Society.

In 1986 and 1987 during the presidency of Dinesh Jain, monthly Samayak was established and 365 days worshipping in temple was initiated with the commitment of 23 families.

In 1988, under the Presidentship of Ramnik Kothari feasibility study of the expansion of the temple was done by the Trustees and record amount of \$15, 000 was collected, during Mahavir Janmakalyanak celebrations. Extensive preparation started to boost 5<sup>th</sup> bi-annual Jaina Convention to be held at Toronto.

In 1989, under the Presidentship of Dinesh Jain and Ramnik Kothari as the Convenor, 5<sup>th</sup> bi-annual Jaina Convention was hosted in Toronto from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1989 and also the movement started to have a bigger place.

In 1990, under the Presidentship of Mahendra Mehta, Jains were very happy with the building and the facilities and were proud of Jain Centre but the population was increasing. Trustees of Jain Society, Moti Champsee started looking for another bigger accommodation. We looked at so many places but 48 Rosemeade was introduced to us by Mahendra Vora and the price seemed to be very reasonable. It was decided on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb'90 to purchase this property at \$1 million. Again, Trustees along with prominent members of the society went to many people and got the pledge for this property. Moti Champsee wrote a cheque of \$100, 000 for deposit and missing number at the time of taking occupation was provided by Ramesh Jain's family. With enthusiasm and togetherness of the Jain Society, we took the possession of this property on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept.'90. It was opened to public on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept'90, after necessary renovations. 247 Parklawn was sold. During that period, Mahavir puja, Snatra puja, Samayak puja and bhakti was established each Sunday of the month.

In 1991, JAINA awarded the 'Most Progressive Jain Society Award' to Jain Society and we started taking extensive part in Jaina. Also, created new position for women and youth representative in Executive Committee. Further amendment to the constitution was done.

*Continued on page 23*

## JAIN DIGEST LIFE MEMBERS UPDATE

Congratulations and thanks to our newest JAIN DIGEST Life Members:

550	Prabodh & Sheela Mehta, Houston, TX
551	Raj & Divya Doshi, San Jose, CA
552	Rajesh & Ashis Mehta, Houston, TX
553	Nimish & Niti Sanghrajka, Lower Gwynedd, PA
554	Ashwin & Sobhana Shah, Woodbridge, ONT
555	Rajendra & Meera Jain, Manhasset, NY
556	Anil Shah, Memphis, TN
557	Satish J. Doshi, Concord, CA
558	Ashok & Anju Kothari, Burr Ridge, IL
559	Harilal & Ranjan Dedhia, Anaheim, CA
560	Surendra & Shila Shah, Des Plains, IL
561	Anand & Shailja Kanjolia, South Hadley, MA

## GENERAL FUND UPDATE

The JAIN DIGEST and JAINA would like to thank each and every one of the following for their generosity in helping make us successful:

MIS	\$670
Harish Shah, Mississauga, Ont	25
Diana Thompson, St. Paul, MN	11
Richard Marranca, Roselle Park, NJ	3

## JAINA CURRENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT

JAINA checking account as of May 8, 1999

### Various sub-committee balances:

Education Committee	\$15,076.92
Jiv Daya Committee	1077.00
World Community Service	18,954.36
Temple Guideline	1,401.00
YJA	5,998.09
Virchand R. Gandhi Fund	6,127.00
North American Jain Family Assistance Program	5,484.00
Jirnoddhar Committee	1,780.00
Pilgrimage Committee	<u>1,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$56,898.37</b>

JAINA General Fund	\$26,791.76
JAIN Digest Endowment Fund	\$60,692.30
JAINA Charitable Trust	
(as of February 18, 1999 latest figure available)	<b>\$152,988.12</b>

## HAPPY OCCASIONS

Congratulations to Mitul Shah, 22, (son of Dr. Dhiraj and Pratima Shah of Buffalo, NY) has graduated from Stern School of Business at NYU on May 11, in finance and accounting and has accepted a position in strategic management at Towers Perrin in New York City. (Donation of \$101)

## Federation of Jain Associations in North America Appeal

*I want to stop the loss of Jain identity and culture by supporting JAINA and I want to be a proud Jain!  
Please fill out this form and support JAINA.*



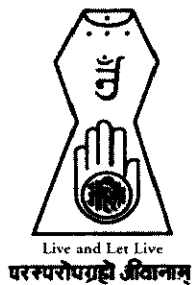
Mail this completed form and your financial contribution to:

JAINA Headquarters  
PO Box 700  
Getzville, NY 14068

- ☐ I want to be a Trustee of JAINA Charitable Trust and will donate \$500<sup>00</sup> every year.
- ☐ I want to be a JAINA Patron and will donate \$251<sup>00</sup> every year.
- ☐ I want to be a Life Member of JAIN DIGEST and will donate \$101<sup>00</sup>.
- ☐ Any other amount:      ☐ \$10    ☐ \$25    ☐ \$50

Please make checks payable to JAINA.

Your donation is tax-deductible in both countries. Please advise us if you wish your donation to remain anonymous.  
950 Jain families have already done so, would you not do so? If not for you, do it for your children and grandchildren.



# Young Jains of America

Federation of Jain Associations in North America

A Non-Profit Tax Exempt Religious Organization. IRS Code Section 501 (c)(3) EI #54-1280028  
yja.info@iname.com • <http://www.yja.org/>

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Timir Chheda

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(931) 648-9535  
pmehta@juno.com

Jai Jinendra!

Just as many of you, the YJA Executive Board is gearing up for the 1999 JAINA Convention to be held in Philadelphia, PA. We have been busy planning a variety of youth activities that will bring social and cultural awareness to issues pertaining to Jainism. We are in the process of finalizing the details of the programming, which include both formal and informal discussions and a variety of social events. We look forward to meeting many of you there.

In addition to the extensive preparations being made for Philadelphia, the executive board has also wrapped up the latest issue of Young Minds that includes a wealth of information about Jainism, YJA's latest activities, and an opportunity for you to get involved. The webpage is undergoing broad renovations and we hope to have everything updated shortly. You can check out the site at <http://www.yja.org/>.

We have also begun soliciting invitation to bid packets to interested cities who may wish to host the site of the next YJA convention. If your city is interested and willing to put in the time and dedication necessary in promoting a successful program, please contact one of the co-chairs. The YJA board is also recruiting fresh, new board members to lead the organization into the next millennium. If you are interested, please bring a résumé highlighting Jain activities and a one-page essay entitled, *How I can lead YJA into the next millennium...* to the Philadelphia convention and we will review and interview potential applicants at that time. If you are not attending the convention, please send your application materials to [yja.info@iname.com](mailto:yja.info@iname.com).

We look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia. If you have any questions, suggestions, or want to know how to get involved, please contact us at [yja.info@iname.com](mailto:yja.info@iname.com).

Thank you.

Timir Chheda and Ameet Shah

Co-Chairs, Young Jains of America 1999

## Join the YJA Executive Board

YJA is in the process of recruiting new Executive Board Members. Being on the YJA Executive Board allows you to help make the decisions that affect Jain youth across the country. There is a lot of effort and time commitment involved, but it is well worth the difference you can make in the Jain community. If you would like to get involved please send your resume (highlighting Jain activities) with a page long essay entitled *How I Can Lead YJA Into The Next Millennium* to [yja.info@iname.com](mailto:yja.info@iname.com) or, bring it along with you to the JAINA Convention to the YJA booth and we would be more than

happy to discuss what the position entails. We will also conduct interviews during that time or by telephone at a later date.

If you cannot make the commitment of being an Executive Board Member, but would still like to help YJA, you can join one of our committees. These committees include: Events, Education, Finance/Fundraising, Public Relations, Publications, Membership/Records, or the Web team. To find out more, please contact any board member or once again email [yja.info@iname.com](mailto:yja.info@iname.com).

## Paryushan Cards

Every year people send millions of cards to friends and family around the world. Think about all those special occasions when mailboxes fill up with Christmas, Birthdays, Diwali, and Anniversary cards. In Jainism the best time for sending cards comes at the end of Paryushan. After Paryushan everybody calls one another to say something as simple as *Michchhami Dukkadam*. A phone call is over in a few minutes, but a card can create memories that will last forever.

I am sure that everyone has seen Paryushan cards, especially in India. Yet, they are still hard to find around here. But, YJA will be making that easier this year. At the 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial JAINA Convention this Fourth of July weekend in Philadelphia, the cards will be sold in packets for approximately ten dollars. The profits are meant to help Jain Youth. Please feel free to contact: **Heerain Shah** at 706/855-8147 or email [heerain.shah@iname.com](mailto:heerain.shah@iname.com) if you have any questions or comments concerning this project.

## Jain Academic Bowl

Young Jains of America and the Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington will be hosting the 4th Jain Academic Bowl (JAB) at the Tenth Biennial Convention of JAINA in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This exciting academic competition, modeled after the high school "It's Academic" and college-level "College Bowl" activities of today's educational institutions, is based on an appreciation of knowledge of Jainism, the ability for quick response, and a friendly yet competitive spirit. The overall hope is to encourage an even greater interest in the study of Jainism. A high degree of success of the program at past conventions resulted in great enthusiasm from the participants to be involved again. Teams involved last year include Pittsburgh PA, Charlotte NC, Chicago, Washington DC, Raleigh NC, Boston, and Lubbock TX.

We invite each and every youth to test your knowledge of Jainism at the Convention.

For more information please contact: **Saurabh Dalal** at 301/577-5215 or **Neha Vagadia** at 508/543-0097. Please spread the word throughout your local center and start planning for this exciting event scheduled for the JAINA Convention.

The tournament is presently planned for eight teams and will be run round-robin style (i.e. each team will play most, if not all, other teams). Byes will be used as necessary. Each team will consist of four youth from the same center and they will play as a unit. Three rounds will be played: a competitive category round, a noncompetitive individual team round and a competitive grab bag round. These questions will be taken mostly from material covered in the pathshala-type classes and general information on Jainism. The tournament will be conducted in English and only common words or central ideas in an Indian language will be used or expected as a response.

### Rules for the Academic Bowl Team Competition

1. Each team must consist of four members
2. The maximum age of any team member is 21
3. The average age of the team cannot be greater than 18 years by January 1, 1999



## Invitation to Bid Packets Available for the 2000 YJA Convention

YJA is seeking enthusiastic and vibrant cities to place a bid to host the 2000 Young Jains of America Convention. The invitation to bid packets are currently available and the deadline for submitting proposals is June 21, 1999, however this deadline may be extended based on discretion. Detailed guidelines for various aspects of hosting the Convention (i.e. programming, site, finances, registration, public relations) should be addressed. These points should be thoroughly read by every city interested in submitting a bid application.

Upon receiving the bid proposals, the YJA Executive Board will review each application. The city will be evaluated on a point scale system in the areas of youth support, budget, site, adult support, and additional information. Therefore each city will not be competing against each other, but rather attempting to score the highest number of points possible. The YJA Executive Board looks forward to receiving several high caliber bid applications. If you are interested in engaging in a rewarding experience, please contact the co-chairs or email questions to [yja.info@iname.com](mailto:yja.info@iname.com).

## Successful 10k Walk and Seed Scholars Recognized

The Supporting Excellence in Education (SEED) Foundation had its first annual 10K Walk-A-Thon on April 24, in Chicago, IL. The theme for this event was "*Small steps...Great Strides*". There were approximately 60 walkers, 13 corporate sponsors, and numerous volunteers. The Foundation exceeded their goal and raised approximately \$20,000 through donations, pledges and corporate sponsors.

The Foundation is proud to announce its scholarship recipients for 1999. The three 1999 SEED Scholars are *Dave Chokshi* from Baton Rouge, LA, *Hetal Mehta* from Alhambra, CA, and *Meera Shah* from Edmonton, Alberta. All three SEED Scholars will receive a \$1000 scholarship. These three individuals were chosen based on their strong academic performance, outstanding leadership potential, and an unwavering commitment to their communities.

Valedictorian of his high school, *Dave Chokshi* has undertaken unique endeavors such as establishing *Avatara*, a literary magazine consisting of works from Indian-American high school students. Dave is a tenacious individual who has been involved in tutoring programs sponsored by the Salvation Army, Volunteers in Public Schools, Big Buddy Partners and Pals, and his Latin class. His academic accomplishments are sensational, as he nearly attained a perfect score on the SAT. Dave plans on pursuing a career in medical research and public service.

*Hetal Mehta* is a National Merit Finalist planning to major in Environmental Studies. She has demonstrated high academic achieve-

ment with a perfect 4.0 GPA and is ranked in the top 1% of her class (711 students). Hetal's community service includes stints at the Environmental Division of the Los Angeles Public Works Department and at the Monterey Park Boys and Girls Club. She has an amazing aptitude in the language arts as shown by her being elected Vice-President of the Writer's Guild and being a recipient of the prestigious Harvard Book Award.

Hoping to pursue a career in economics, *Meera Shah* would like to help redistribute resources for proper allocation for social programs in Canada. She actively volunteers her time for geriatric patients at the local hospital. Meera has been recognized academically for her high scores in the Cayley Math Contest, a national math competition. In addition, she has worked at the University of Alberta as a Statistics Research Assistant. At school, Meera is the Business Manager for her school newspaper and also is the President of the Graduation Committee for her senior class.

The SEED Foundation is a non-profit scholarship foundation promoting Asian-Indian youth to achieve greater educational opportunities. The goal is to support and prepare youth for the emerging global world. Our mission is to plant a seed of inspiration that will help youth to grow into responsible adults in their communities. The Foundation sponsors an annual scholarship program that recognizes and rewards well-rounded students. For more information on the SEED Foundation and its activities, please visit our website at [www.seedfoundation.org](http://www.seedfoundation.org).

## YJA MEMBERSHIP FORM

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**TODAY'S DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Present Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Jain Center Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: Father \_\_\_\_\_ Mother \_\_\_\_\_

### EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Check one:  
☐ Elementary/high school ☐ Undergraduate college ☐ Post-graduate college ☐ Working ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of (mm/yy): \_\_\_\_\_ Area of study: \_\_\_\_\_

### YOUNG PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Current Employer/Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_ # of years: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional  
Why do you want to join YJA?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please check if applicable:  
☐ I do not want any of this information published by YJA in a positive manner.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to learn more about YJA and/or become a member, please fill out the form and send it to:

Shubhra Jain  
8680A Kingsbridge Lane  
St. Louis, MO 63132-4500

You can also find more information and this form online at:  
<http://www.yja.org/>

### Email YJA

To Reach...

...the Executive Committee  
[yja-excom-list@pantheon.yale.edu](mailto:yja-excom-list@pantheon.yale.edu)

...the Co-Chairs  
[yja-cc-list@pantheon.yale.edu](mailto:yja-cc-list@pantheon.yale.edu)

...the Advisory Board  
[yja-ad-list@pantheon.yale.edu](mailto:yja-ad-list@pantheon.yale.edu)

...Your Regional Co-ordinators  
[yja-xx-list@pantheon.yale.edu](mailto:yja-xx-list@pantheon.yale.edu)  
(Replace xx with ma, we, se, so, ne, or mw, depending on your region.)

# YOUNG Minds

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Naishadh Shah

If you would like to become an editor of **YOUNG Minds**, please contact Naishadh Shah at [naish@excite.com](mailto:naish@excite.com), or 732/651-8734.

In 1992, Dinesh Jain became the President. Balbhadraji joined as Pathashala teacher. Society decided to add Ghabara to existing building.

In 1993, elected first Woman President. Under the leadership of Bhadraben Kothari, Murti Sthapna Mahotsav was observed in new Ghabara. Jaina Regional office was established at Toronto. 15 gurus, pandits, scholars visited the Society.

In 1994 and 1995, after the constitution change, we have two year term for the President, Gyanchand Jain was elected President for two years During that gabhara was completed. Pratikraman was

initiated for the youth. Other activities continued as usual.

In 1996-97 Saubhagya Kamesara took the chair. We started planning for 9<sup>th</sup> bi-annual Jaina Convention. It was a great success and it got Society more than \$100,000. Renovations at Jain Centre was done and Murthi Sthapna Mahotsav was observed.

In 1998-99, grand celebrations were taken to celebrate 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Society under the leadership of Ashok Shah. Kumarpal Maharaj, 101 deepak arti was performed for the first time at the centre. From 21 – 23 May 1999, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jain Society was celebrated. Lot of enthusiasm was there and also participants were happy to see the progress of the Society.

## FOR OUR HEALTH

### Emotions and Health

by Dr. Dilip Shah, Chicago, Illinois

The notion that emotions are tied to health is not a new one. For centuries, doctors used to believe that love and passion played a role in causing disease and that by treating the spirit you can treat illness. While many of these antiquated ideas are not used in modern medicine, recent developments in the understanding of cellular function have shown that molecules within the body transmit signals between the nervous and immune system. This "microscopic communication" suggests that our general feeling of well-being may be very important in determining our physical health.

While often depending on our physical health, our emotional health is also maintained through a variety of influences such as our ability to deal with the daily stressors in our lives as well as our social support system. Surprisingly, these factors can often play as much or more of a role in our health than we may believe. A 1997 report in the Journal of the American Medical Association revealed that a lack of diverse social contacts was actually a stronger risk factor for colds than smoking or low Vitamin C intake. Apparently, social support somehow boosts immune function. A convincing body of evidence also suggests that chronic anger, anxiety, loneliness, and depression can cause premature heart disease and death.

On a daily basis, stress factors such as jobs, traffic jams, illness, or death can trigger the secretion of two different hormones, adrenaline and cortisol, which are key in mediating our physical symptoms to stress. Normally, this secretion is switched off once the stress is over but if the internal regulatory mechanism malfunctions because of constant stimulation, chronic hormone release can cause

high blood pressure, diabetes, osteoporosis, and infection. Women with depression tend to have the highest cortisol levels and osteoporosis.

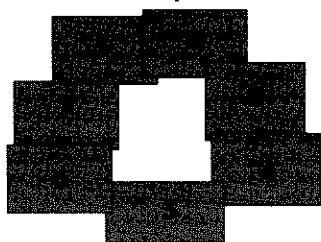
Over the past decade, the idea that there is a link between cancer and emotions has been further explored. In a 1988 investigation, Stanford University researchers found that women with metastatic breast cancer tended to live an average of 18 months longer if they participated in a support group to talk about their cancer versus women without this network. This disparity is often accounted for by a 20-30% weakening of the immune system in lonely and depressed patients. Those patients that had the support network tended to have natural defense systems that were more active. Emotional support also probably helped by encouraging patients to take their medicines more regularly, to eat properly, to remain active, and to live a better quality of life.

When experts recommend that people reduce stress in their lives, it does not necessarily mean that you have to leave the city or the country, quit your job, or make any dramatic life changes. You may simply need to exercise more, expand your social circle, and put daily stressors- such as traffic jams- in perspective.

If you have any questions, please send them to the following address:

Dr. Dilip Shah  
1508 Midwest Club  
Oak Brook, IL 60523  
dilipshahmd@yahoo.com

### Cover Captions



*Photos 1 & 2: The Jain Center of Greater St. Louis celebrates Pratistha Mahotsav May 29-30, 1999.*

*Photos 3 & 4: Toronto Jain Society celebrates 25th Anniversary May 21-23.*

*Photo 5: JAINA at UN: Dilip V. Shah (JAINA Secretary), Mahendra Pandya (First Vice President), Kofi Asomani (Director of UNHCR at UN Headquarters), Dhiraj Shah (JAINA President), Robyn Groves (Senior External Relations Officer of UNHCR), Kirit Kapadia (JAINA Trustee). See article on page 7.*

*Photos 6 & 7: Greater Baltimore Hindu-Jain Temple Pratishtha celebration, May 9.*

*Publisher's note:* JAINA sponsored an essay competition as a part of its ongoing commitment to the progressive development of Jainism in North America. The main topic of the 1998 JAINA Essay Competition was *Maintaining and Representing Our Religious and Cultural Identity as Jains in North America*.

There were a total of 123 participants, 45 from ages up to 10 years, 60 from ages 11 to 14 years, 16 from ages 15 to 18 years and two from ages 19 and older. There were 101 participants from Jain Center of Southern California, 11 from Jain Center of Greater Boston, three from Jain Center of San Diego, two from Jain Center of N. California, two from Jain Center of Chicago, two from Jain Center of Connecticut, and one each from Jain Center of Toronto and Florida. JAINA thanks each and every participant, and their respective Jain Centers for their efforts, enthusiasm and affection that they have shown for the Jain religion.

JAIN DIGEST is publishing the first place essays in all four categories. The winning essays by Riddhi Mehta, age 8, in the 'up to 10 years' category, and by Shadrul Shah, age 8, in the 'ages 11 to 14 years', were printed in the Fall 1998 and Spring 1999 issues, respectively.

The remaining two appear below. All prizes will be awarded at the forthcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial JAINA Convention in Philadelphia.

## First Place Essay: 15 to 18 years

### *Keeping Jainism Alive* By Manisha Parek, Age: 15

America has developed into a very diverse country, with people from all over the world who each brought in their own cultures. Along with the people and cultures, there came many religions, and though Christianity quickly became one of the main focuses in America, many other religions have found their way into the spotlight. Now, as the years pass, the people of America are becoming more aware of the numerous religions, and are realizing they can decide which religion they want to follow. Having to make this decision is leaving many people confused, and some people just drop religion altogether, thinking that it's too much of a hassle. But as for me, my mind is easily made up. I am a Jain, and I will be for the rest of my life.

Every religion is basically a code of ethics or a book of rules for people to follow in their daily life. Most religions claim that if you follow their principles you will be happy, but if you don't you will be miserable and horrible things will happen. Jainism is this way too, but it goes even further. It fascinates me because it accounts for all the good or bad things that happen in life and gives reasons for why they happen. These reasons are based upon the Karma Theory, which explains that you control your own destiny. Your actions and thoughts attract either good or bad karmas which bind to your soul, and these karmas in turn, make good or bad things come your way. The longer the karma stays with you, the longer you suffer. The extent to which these karmas react upon you and how long they stay with you, is based upon how extreme your action was. For example, if you murder someone (a very extreme, bad thing to do), the bad karmas you accumulate for that will stay with you for a very long time. They could even carry on into your next life. Because of this concept, I have come to realize that it's because of karmas that some people are born with diseases or defects, that some people are smarter than others, and that there are so many differences between us.

Jainism is very helpful and interesting because it gives you a logical goal to strive for. Eternal spiritual happiness is the main goal in Jainism and is represented by Moksha. By attaining Moksha, you are ending the cycle of birth and death. You have rid yourself of all your karmas, and are never again burdened by their affects. Everyone wants to be happy and this goal is very logical in saying that all you have to do is get rid of your karmas. Jainism is intriguing in the sense that it says anyone can attain Moksha and become a "god." God is not higher in the sense that he has more power. Everyone is equal, and has an equal potential of becoming god. All they have to do is follow the Jain principles. This may seem very difficult, but Jainism is designed with the fact in mind that everyone has limitations, and not all souls are capable of following every principle to its true extent. Because of this, Jainism has developed simple ways to practice daily life in order to get rid of karmas and not accumulate more karmas. For example, there are five vows that Jains must follow. These are non-violence, truth, non-stealing, non-possessiveness, and celibacy. Now, the common householder may practice these to a lesser extent than a monk might. This is because the householder has to worry about making a living, traveling or raising a family. But, the householder, by practicing these things, is still benefiting his life. So, even though the householder has limitations, Jainism is still helping him and making him happy because of the many simple ways of practicing. I am practicing Jainism in my life in many ways. First of all, I am attending Panchaj classes at the temple. I have been attending these classes for five years now, and I enjoy them very much. I want to learn about Jainism and by going to these classes, I feel good about myself and can become a better Jain and a better person. I also attend a Sutra class at the temple. I learn the meanings of sutras as well as memorize them. By learning these, I am able to participate in Pratikramans and Samayiks. I say the



Navkar Mantra 3 times in the morning and at night, as well. By saying these prayers, I hope to be getting rid of karmas. I use these prayers sometimes to help me calm down. If I am very angry or upset, or even if I can't go to sleep because I'm thinking about something, I say the Navkar Mantra and it helps me become more peaceful and relaxed. Another thing I do to practice Jainism is some days, during Paryushan, I do upvass and ekasnu.

Vegetarianism is a very big part of my life. I have always been a vegetarian, and I am sure that will never change. I think it is very cruel and unjust to kill animals for food when there are plenty of other alternatives. It is true that sometimes being vegetarian can be difficult. Last year, I participated in a school trip to Washington D.C. There, for two or three meals, we were taken to McDonald's. All I could eat there was a salad, french fries, or a piece of apple pie. Not a very substantial meal, if you ask me. But still, I did not back out on my views of being vegetarian, and did the best I could with what they had to offer. This type of situation has occurred many times. I have gone to parties and on other trips where they only serve meat, and never once have I just eaten the meat because I was really hungry. I have always found alternatives, and have learned to take my own food with me on certain trips. I also try to inflict my views on others. When my friends come over, I only serve them vegetarian food. They don't seem to have a problem with it, and just recently one of my closest friends has decided to try becoming a vegetarian. She came to me asking for ideas on what to eat, and I gave her many. She enjoys being vegetarian, and I'm glad that I could help.

Other ways of practicing non-violence and many other small things have also influenced my thinking and way of life. I try not to use any animal products such as leather and silk. I do not see the reason for killing animals just for human benefit. I also try to use cruelty-free products, such as shampoo and conditioner, lotion, soaps, and makeup. And, whenever I see any bugs on the ground, I do not step on them or purposefully kill them. I try to be a non-violent in my words and thoughts. I keep any thoughts of hurting anyone or anything out of my mind, and if someone is complaining to me about someone else, I try to remain neutral and do not make any comments that would hurt others. I practice celibacy, non-possessiveness, non-stealing, and truth as much as I can. Even when people tell me stories of how they took something without paying for it, or how they lied to their parents, I never feel like following their example. Another concept I follow is multiplicity of views. This is an essential part of my attitude when working in groups. I have been doing so many group projects these past couple years in school, that this concept has become a great way for me to reduce conflicts. It has taught me that my views are not the only ones. Other people could have different views that could be totally valid. I may even like someone else's views better than my own.

Jainism really helps me make good decisions. By using the views, I can decide what's right and what's wrong. For example, all those times when I went to parties and there was only meat to eat, I used my judgement and Jain principles to decide that I wasn't

going to eat the meat. Also, I went to a party where people were doing drugs or drinking. I was afraid that people would pressure me into doing something, but I used the Jain principles to decide that I wasn't going to disrespect myself and do anything bad. Whenever I have a conflict with someone, I know not to fight them or say anything that would hurt them. My friends and I always have disagreements, but I try not to let anything bother me, and I don't say anything mean to them. If the situation is really bad, I've learned to just discuss it, rather than screaming. I also try to control my actions and emotions. Whenever there is a crisis, I do not overreact and cause pain to others.

In the future, there is a lot I plan to do to keep Jainism alive. While I am still young, I will continue attending Patshala and Sutra classes, making sure I understand everything. I will continue to practice Jainism in everyday life, and as I grow older, improve more in the principles I practice in everyday life. For example, I will make sure that I try even more to always tell the truth and be non-possessive. I will limit my foods such as potatoes, carrots, and onions, and do more fasting and prayers. I won't drink or smoke. Another thing I plan to do is participate in Jain camps and conventions. I also want to serve on the JCYC committee at temple so that I can help organize activities for the temple to get more people involved with JCYC. I plan to increase the awareness of Jainism by promoting non-violence at school and in my neighborhood. I can do this by writing articles for the school and local newspapers.

When I am an adult, I will attend the adult class at the temple, send my kids to patshala, and encourage other friends and family to come, too. I will also teach a class at the temple so that little kids can have good judgement and the right thinking at an early age. I will also donate money and time to improve the temple. I will give money and some belongings to charities such as Red Cross and the Salvation Army so that other less fortunate people will be able to get things they need. I will give money to organizations to save the rainforests and the ecology of our planet as well, so that animals and plants can live safely, without destruction or pollution from humans. Throughout my adult life, I plan to give small lectures at high schools or colleges about Jainism and how it can benefit everyone's life. Through this, I hope to gain support for Jainism and possibly have people convert to Jainism.

There are many obstacles that I can see, but none that I won't be able to solve. I know I will encounter peer pressure to do drugs or to drink. This will probably make me uneasy and unsure of what to do, but I know I will be strong and not give in. I will have to be confident of my ways and not let others tell me what to do. I also know I will have problems being a vegetarian because America is a very non-vegetarian environment. Everyone here loves meat and not many people seem to care what they're eating. I can solve this by finding an alternative. When I go to a place where they only serve hamburgers, I can simply ask for one without the meat. That way, I am still getting all the lettuce, cheese, tomatoes, etc., but I am not



eating meat. Plus, by promoting vegetarianism more and more, I'm sure most restaurants will have some vegetarian selections. Another problem I could encounter at the Jain center is unwilling or uninterested people. This will mostly happen with younger kids, because they have shorter attention spans. I can overcome this obstacle by thinking of ways to make the lessons more interesting. I know when I was younger I really enjoyed hands-on projects, so I can incorporate such activities into my lessons. There is always going to be the problem of money. Where will the money to fund all these projects and activities at the temple come from? I will just have to ask for donations. I can make good presentations about why we need the money, and I'm sure some people will donate. One of the biggest problems I see is a lack of support, interest, or willingness to help from the public. This would happen because America is a very non-religious society. The first people who came here, were escaping from religious persecution. They set up this

society as one where religion is not to be forced upon anyone. Now days, religion is not allowed in public schools and colleges. The longer this goes on, the more anti-religious people will become. If this happens, I would not be able to present Jain ideas in the community and no one would want to help me. The only way I can maneuver around this problem is by promoting Jainism indirectly. Instead of saying that this is the Jain religion and this has to be the right way, I can simply present the principles as another way of living. I don't even have to say that it is the Jain religion, I can just say this is another way to look at things.

Jainism is a very interesting and unique religion, mostly because it explains why everything happens. No other religion offers this explanation. Even so, the number of Jains in America make up a very small percentage of the population. But, this number has the potential of growing very large. It's all in the hands of my generation to promote Jainism and keep it alive.

## First Place Essay: 19 years and up

### *A Treaty on Jainism and North America*

By Raju M. Shah

**INTRODUCTION:** This essay will address problems that I see facing Jain religion and society and the plans we can make today to overcome them tomorrow. Before I begin, let me state that I do not profess to be a Jain scholar, but I do profess to know enough about our society to provide a critique that will hopefully serve useful to move Jainism in America<sup>1</sup> ahead to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

A farmer plowing at the dirt, a business man running a grocery store, a business man managing a dairy, a civil servant working for the state: These are the jobs that my forefathers held, and out of these people my strong sense of community and a strong value of communication arose. These two are the foremost problems I see facing Jains in this country. Community & Communication. The sense of community has always been strong within the Halari Visa Oshwal community, but I have not seen the greater Jain society, i.e. the Jain society on a national level, develop this sense of community to the same degree. I will use my understanding of the Halari Visa Oshwal community to provide an insight into how our society can progress via Community. I have seen that Communication always plagues Jains and hinders progress. This is something that is universal, and the steps that are being made to ensure that this hindrance ends need to be promoted. I will use my experiences from serving on various Jain groups to provide an

insight into how our society can progress via Communication.

To fully explain the "sense of Community" let me tell you a little about the Halari Visa Oshwal community. The Halari Visa Oshwal community had its origins in a small village in the Indian State of Rajasthan named Ossiya. After many migrations throughout South Asia, the members of the twenty tribes of Oshwal came to settle in the district of Halar, Gujarat. The 52 cities between Jamnager and Khamhaliya where our ancestors settled are still alive. Late in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century many Halari Visa Oshwals went to cities like Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Karachi, and Mumbai, to better their lives. Around the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century they again moved to East Africa. By this time our population was about 10,000 strong. In a short time East Africa saw many Oshwal majans (community halls) and derasers, one of each in every major city. Towards the 1960's and 1970's when East Africa's freedom from British rule led to turmoil many Oshwals then migrated to England and America. Now there are even schools in the major cities of East Africa specifically for Oshwals. Currently we are about 55,000 strong, with a strong presence in England, East Africa, and a budding presence in America.<sup>2</sup>

Jains, en masse, have not been in North America for a very long time. Some of our elder peers came over shortly after India's independence from Britain, but the first major wave

began in the late 60's and early 70's. After these people had a chance to plant some roots others began to come over in the early 80's. This has created a very diverse and wide spread Jain population, having mass points in most major cities across this continent. While we have only been in this country for a short time, we have developed; however our development can proceed faster after these two obstacles have been eliminated.

**PROBLEMS:** The problems that we face stem from miscommunication and from a lack of solidarity. The problems that stem from miscommunication often deal with politics. The term that many Jains dislike, and the term that few recognize as commonplace. The problems that stem from a lack of solidarity are lack of a common national vision for the future. I challenge that these difficulties are not anything more than small obstacles in our path to a greater more flourishing subculture within the Americas, and that they can be hurdled over with small effort.

While a few people share a similar vision for the success of the Jain community, unless we all share similar visions it will take us a long time to reach our goal. A few key people within our Jain movement have begun to strive for a simple but noteworthy goal: a pathshala and seniors' center in every major city. This goal represents the beginning of a solid foundation for Jainism as a continent wide movement. Since this is just one view for the future we, the Jain community, need to formulate a single solid plan for the future, that we can all work at to achieve.

The barriers that keep us from having a pathshala in every center, in my opinion, stem from the fact that finding a common syllabus and methodology of teaching has not yet been reached. The pathshala convention will hopefully provide a big step in this process. The barriers keeping us from having a seniors' center are numerous. Reasons stem from the misconception of a retirement center, the biasing based upon, although valid, the negative operation of the "American Retirement Home," the firm belief that what is applicable in other countries is equally applicable here, and many other reasons.

But the effort can not be just from one side; it must not only come down from the leadership but also up from the membership. One of the problems why this is not happening fast enough is that though our leaders have a vision for the future, the role of an individual to accomplish these goals is abstract. The ideas are floating around, with implementations, but without roles for everyone. This leads to the problem we have with communication.

At this stage we do not communicate efficiently nor do we communicate effectively with one another. This stems out from a general lack of patience (which seems to stem from the fact that we lead very busy lives) in both giving and receiving communication, and from not using all tools available to us. This general miscommunication leads to politics as people begin to not explain their full agenda and do not understand the full agendas of others. And once the game of politics is being played the original objectives are lost, and everyone loses.

Almost any youth group can demonstrate a prime example of how this game of politics does nothing but hinder progress. Money collection is probably to number one way in which every youth group is affected, from YJA, to the Houston YJA Convention Committee on down to local groups. At times, the money that has been pledged to these groups are held back because of petty politics, often by the same people that publicly support these youth groups. The youth are the future, and playing politics does nothing but discourage them. In my opinion, the key reason why these politics arise is a lack of proper communication. I am confident that if everyone is in the loop and offers to help in any way they can, that politics will disappear and that progress will quicken.

**PLAN:** My plan for the Jain community is comprehensive, placing all stages of life together for a more cohesive society. In order for such a plan to succeed it must not conflict with the greater society, otherwise we will begin to be labeled as outsiders. Therefore, in each stage of life it is imperative that we do not only do Jain things, but that we also take part in the greater society, and thereby keep our own consciousness but do not separate ourselves from Americans.

The first phase of life is from birth to pre-school age. It is in this phase that we acquire rudimentary language skills and the foundations of society. I therefore suggest that we create a pathshala system implemented carefully so that all Jains can attend, not just those in a fortunate city can attend. Preparations are being made as to create pathshalas in more and more cities, but these can not reach to all. The first step in standardizing the curriculum will begin Memorial Day weekend this May, and no doubt will be quite successful. But, it only represents a top down effort. This can either happen in the standard Sunday classes, or it can go to the summer camp format that was done at places like Siddhachalam. However, it is up to the membership to ensure that our linguistic and religious traditions are passed down. I therefore recommend that, in addition to the regular pathshalas, a single center be established for at least four weeks to not only teach our religious and linguistic traditions are preserved by also to teach all youth about our history and culture. If there was a single center established and the necessary funding provided, it would provide numerous benefits, especially to those whose hometowns do not have a regular pathshala. I surmise that this could be accomplished in conjunct with a single seniors' center, as I will discuss below.

The second phase of life is from pre-school to high-school age. It is in this phase that we establish the foundations of our identity, morally and socially. I believe the best way to establish a solid foundation is to be around others that are have similar beliefs, however we must realize that if we socially separate our youth from their American peers that we may risk separating them from the general public. I therefore suggest that there be a Jain camp permanently established to educate our youngsters about Jainism. When I was young, I would spend entire summers with my family in England, where the majority of my extended family lives. This enabled me to form the family ties that were not possible being one



of two families living in North America from both my mother's and father's sides. But in spending the entire summer away, I missed out on activities associated with summer. Thus, I redefine this suggestion by stating that we should allow youngsters to attend other activities with their school and local youth groups – i.e. Boy Scout camps, Summer camps, Sport Clinics, etc. I believe that this can be accomplished if we can create two or three sessions during the entire summer, so that youth can attend the session that is accommodating to their schedule. Should this be permanently implemented, the benefits would be immense, starting with a strong network base and a richer understanding of Jainism. This too can easily be implemented along with the younger youth center.

The third phase of life is from high school to college age. It is in this phase that we begin to decide possible futures, including where we want to go to college, and once we get there what to do at college. The biennial YJA conventions do a great job of facilitating this, with the possible extension to spend more time at the convention site to solidify our youth network. Anyone who has attended these conventions wishes that they could last longer. What I suggest to accomplish this is to keep the convention as it is, July fourth weekend, and to open up the two weeks surrounding the convention to allow for new and old friends to bond, and build the foundations for friendships that we can not accomplish now in three days. This can be accomplished by a two-week window of events in the host city, designed to allow for meeting on various levels, leisure, professional and everything between. While the plans for this to be implemented in the future are being laid down, the membership must also be able to help.

The fourth phase of life is from college age to early professional age. It is in this phase that we begin our career, and make our business contacts. We need to lay down a strong network of job opportunities and social contacts. While this first Young Jains Professional convention served to initiate this within our community, we need to move forward. We need to all work together to facilitate this by volunteering our time as business contact, either professionally or socially.

The next stage of life leads us to when our own children are born and to the furthering of our careers. In this stage we begin to look at the first stage from parental eyes. However, the next stage of life, our retirement years, leads to examine the differences between America and India. With the majority of our family trees spread out all over America it makes it hard for us to keep that same sense of family that we had in India. Where before it was commonplace that our family lived either in the same house or close by it is now commonplace that our family is spread out, a brother in New Jersey, a Sister in California, and a cousin in Texas. That fact coupled with the fact that it is impossible to go anywhere without your own transportation would point at the fact that having occasions where an entire family is together can be very difficult. This predicament can ideally be solved by a situation that can provide the opportunity for a generation of family to be together and allow them to learn

about their family's history. Clearly we can't expect this and a long-term summer session to happen separately, as there is not enough time in the summer to accomplish this and allow ample time for other activities. Therefore we should target for a single session that can capture the best aspects of each of these ideas. This session would allow time for scholastic and local community activities and allow religious and familial learning to take place concurrently.

I can go back three generations and tell you all the descendants of my paternal great-grandfather, as I am sure that most of you can. But this would not have happened without spending summers with my grandparents and relatives. I therefore recommend that a Senior Center be established where residence can be either temporary or permanent. If, during the summer, the Senior Center has numerous adults there, they can serve as teachers of our history and culture to our youngsters. This will enable us to ensure that our familial history is passed down, that the family ties of friendship are shared (i.e. you can meet and really know your grandfather's best-friend's grandchildren). This will also allow our seniors to share part of their year with others in retirement, without the inconvenience of no transportation and still allow them to spend the majority of the year in a family setting. Of course to ensure that the tragedies associated with the "American Retirement Home" do not happen here there must be much initial thought provided. Perhaps those seniors that are living on their own might be interested in the community aspect of living with other seniors and be interested in helping to set up some of these summer programs for our children.

The role of increased communication will be very vital to the success of Jainism. I am working with establishing specific forums for discussions about these various topics via the Internet. As more and more people are becoming connected, the viability of using the Internet as a tool of communication will also us to work together on projects at our own pace. I am working with others to secure a series of newsgroups and chat rooms that will be specifically designed for this purpose: to increase communication about specific projects, and to further them by letting the general public be more informed the total progress, and how they can help.

**CONCLUSION:** JAINA has made its focus the first and two last stages of life its focus for the year. YJA has begun projects that will carry out the middle three stages. Both organizations are only comprised of a few individuals, who try, but can not do everything. If we can all take steps to build our community, whether we are young or old, and donate time and/or money we will be a closer group of people. If we can all take steps to increase and better communication between us we will be better off and hopefully without politics. If you are interested you should take that initiative and find out how you want to help and where you can help out by contacting the appropriate people, starting with the YJA and JAINA boards.

<sup>1</sup> In this paper America refers to both United States of America and Canada.

<sup>2</sup> For more in-depth info on the history of the Halari Visa Oshwal community please visit their web page at <http://www.yja.org/hvona>.

# Temple of Your Dreams — Pride and Joy of the Convention

by Dilip V. Shah

Conventioners at the Biennial JAINA convention in Philadelphia over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend are going to be treated to a marvelous sight. A specially-built Choumukhi temple just for this convention made of pink stone, intricately carved and so authentic you would think for a moment you are in India visiting the temple dearest to you.

This is a story of how this remarkable temple came into being. A vision of one man, the efforts of scores of volunteers and an inspiration for thousands. A story that took over eighty years to tell and played out on three continents.

You must have heard about the antique teakwood temple that was brought from Gujrat to the World's fair in St. Lois, acquired by Howard Hughes, languishing in a motel in Las Vegas and finally donated to the Jain Center of Southern California. Most people would simply admire the awesome panels on display at the Jain Bhavan in Los Angeles.

But Nipul Shah is not like most of us. He is using the panels and arches of this temple to create "something unique that would inspire our younger generation who have never visited India about the richness of our religion".

Nip, as his friends call him was born in Nairobi, Kenya in 1955 in to a staunch Jain household. At the age of 16 he went to the airport with his camera to take pictures of Gurudev Chitrabhanu who was traveling out of India for the very first time. He was already assigned the task of decorating the hall where Gurudev was to speak. It turned out that the official photographer did not come through and Nip became the photographer of record for Gurudev's historic trip. Gurudev touched the heart and mind of young Nip in such a powerful way that to this day he remembers and lives by the message he heard that auspicious day: "When you point a finger of blame at someone, remember you are also pointing three fingers at yourself". His journey to fame had just begun.

His first journey was from Nairobi to England for studies. At Imperial College he obtained a Ph.D. and today is an internationally recognized authority on internal combustion. In 1987, he moved to San Diego. Just as he was in Kenya and in England, he became very active in community affairs, temples and "Shishu Kunj". But fate was about to play a cruel joke: he was diagnosed with kidney troubles and given only a 2% chance of survival. Hah—someone was looking over him: After two kidney transplants and prolonged recovery period, he believes he now has a second lease on life.

He is not about to waste this precious gift of life. He believes there is a reason why he has been given this gift. Now his motto in life is "Be good—do good". Accordingly, he has turned his life towards doing something for the children. When he heard about the temple in Los Angeles and about the convention in Philadelphia, an idea of creating the temple was born. Although he has never been to India, he had seen temples in Nairobi and Mombassa. He wants to involve our youngsters in projects that will fortify them with our

culture and religion. Inspired by the antique teakwood temple, invitation from the Devendra Peer of Samarpan Jain Sangh and help of Dr. Manibhai Mehta of Jain Center of southern California, he was off and running. He ran first to the Jain Society of San Diego. He encountered lot of enthusiasm and lots of questions in his Sangh but with supporters like Rohakbhai Vora, Ashokbhai Shah and Kishorebhai Mehta his dream carried the day.

To allow maximum number of people to see and pray at the same time, he decided on a Choumukhi (four sided) design. He tried to create a computer design but was not satisfied and built a model and took pictures instead. The plan was to build a temple with the base of 25 by 25 ft and height of 23 ft. He borrowed a pillar and half-arch from the Jain Bhavan of Los Angeles and had them professionally cleaned. Molds were made.

For the last six months every weekend volunteers—seven to seventy years old—have met at his house to build this temple. With the help of his wife Renuka and 17-year-old son Amar, his garage has turned in to a workshop. Almost 26 families in San Diego have put in approximately 2,000 hours and the clock is ticking on. 56 elephants, 24 Shrivaks, 24 Shrivikas, fountains and plants all around in addition to 24 Tirthankars—all made with devotion, care and such a sense of purpose that it has become a community project. Mold maker Tony has given countless hours teaching his art. Steve built the shikhar and the list of helpers just goes on...

The project has brought so many people together in San Diego and has generated a crescendo of good will and "can do" attitude that is about to run wild all over this continent. More than 250 pieces from 4,000 lbs. of Hydro stone have been made. The total weight is expected to be over 5,000 lbs. These pieces will be shipped (courtesy of Virendra Shah of Los Angeles) on 30 pallets. In Philadelphia Somchand Shah, Lalit Mehta, Rajni Doshi and Mahendra Sanghavi have taken the responsibility of erecting it at the convention site. You will not only be able to do Darshan, but also learn the process by which this temple was created. Just visiting this newest Jain temple in Philadelphia can be enough of a reason to attend the convention.

It his dream that he would like to get a murti in every Jain home in North America so that their day starts with a prayer. When you see this labor of love, the purity of purpose and the elegance of design, you will wonder. You will wonder how any Jain community in North America can say that they do not have resources to build a temple of their own. For cost of less than a luxury car, any community can build a temple like this. All they need is a few volunteers. After all, they have already been inspired. And Nip is ready to assist any community that wishes to embark on the journey that will uplift them. A temple built by the hands of their own children can be the very best thing that happened in their community.

# The Search for Bliss and Happiness

by Manu Doshi

**H**appiness is usually termed as absence of unhappiness. But this definition merely shifts our search to the concept of unhappiness. The worldly life is beset with various types of misery, distress and affliction that give the feeling of unhappiness. The factors that lead to unhappiness can be divided in three categories of Ādhi, Vyādhī and Upādhī. The first relates to the mental unhappiness. The second relates to physical unhappiness. The third pertains to the problems arising from the extraneous factors. To get free from all these aspects is Samādhī, the state of true happiness.

But most people are not much concerned about true happiness. They are more interested in getting worldly happiness which can be termed as pleasure. The pleasure is defined as the agreeable sensation arising from expectation, acquisition or possession of something desirable. This definition implies that it has to be free from vexation, annoyance, anger, affliction, distress, sorrow, trouble etc. Our activities are generally motivated by the desire to gain such pleasure.

The feeling of pleasure is closely associated with comforts. Making the life comfortable therefore happens to be the main objective of all our activities. Comforts and amenities can therefore be equated with pleasure. The present day science has provided to us the comforts and amenities that were beyond the purview of the people of earlier generations. The electronics and other devices have extended to us the facilities that were unimaginable a few years back. It is hardly an exaggeration to state that an ordinary woman can now garb herself the way, which even the Mughal queens could not afford. That has however not made us happier. The reason lies in the sense of desire. The desire to have something more prevents us from experiencing happiness that can be availed from the existing situation.

The desire knows no limitation. The more we get, the more we aspire for.

In order to explain the nature of desire, the scriptures have depicted the character of Kapil. He went out to bless the king with a view to gain two grains of gold. But pitying his condition, when the king permitted him to ask for anything he liked, his desire was let loose and he was induced to think of continually increasing amount. Instead of getting two grains of gold, he successively thought of asking for 1000 coins, 10000 coins, millions and so on till he conceived of asking for the entire kingdom. That thought, however, gave him a jerk. He was astonished to note that simply because the king was kind enough to grant him what he asked for, he was led to think of making that very king a pauper. What sort of mind is it! That induced him to think otherwise and he ultimately decided

not to ask for anything. This story indicates that desire is endless and insatiable. It can be restrained only by laying voluntary limitations on acquisitions and possessions.

Another area where we normally look for happiness is the gratification of senses. For that purpose we try to procure and accumulate objects of senses. We like to touch, eat, smell, see or hear something of our choice. For instance, we feel excited with soft touch or with tasty food or drink. We also feel happy in the company of spouse and experience a sense of delight in the process of procreation. When we avail of such objects and situations, we feel delighted. But that sense does not last long. After some time we become sick of the existing situations and start hankering for something else. This happens, because the sense objects do not have the capability to provide happiness.

It is evident that happiness would evade us as long as we look for it from the sources where happiness does not lie. In this connection it is worthwhile to cite the example of an old woman. She was once looking for something in the street. A young girl happened to pass by and inquired what she was looking for. The woman replied that she was looking for her needle. Thereupon the young girl joined her in the search. Since the needle could not be located, the girl asked the woman if she remembered where the needle was dropped. The woman replied that it was dropped inside her hut. The young girl was exasperated and asked her why she was wasting time in looking for the needle where it was not dropped. The woman replied that there was dark inside the hut and she was therefore looking for the needle in the day light. The incident may seem ridiculous, but we happen to be continually involved in similar activities. Happiness lies inside but we are afraid to dive deep and have all the time

been looking for it outside, where it does not exist.

Since we have equated happiness with pleasure, it needs to be understood that the increasing amount of anything, even of the cherished objects, leads to reduction in pleasure and eventually it ceases to give

pleasure. The sense of pleasure actually depends upon the intensity of desire that a given situation or object is expected to satisfy. The higher the intensity, the higher would be the degree of satisfaction arising from its gratification. For instance, if we have intense desire to eat certain type of food, getting such food results in a high level of satisfaction. But after eating some quantity, the desire for it starts going down till it comes to a zero. Then, not only does the same food seem non-relishing, the additional quantity may actually result in disinclination.

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*Most people are not much concerned about true happiness. They are more interested in getting worldly happiness which can be termed as pleasure.*

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Moreover, the sense of pleasure being subjective, it varies from person to person. No objective criteria can therefore be laid down for worldly happiness. Moreover, the sense of pleasure also varies person from time to time. The food, sights, sound etc. that a person relished earlier, may not seem attractive to him later on. His outlook changes with the passage of time. Similarly, the object which attracts one in one situation, may not at all seem fascinating to him in different situation. For instance, one may be enamored of his wife's hair and may not miss any opportunity to admire that. If, however, her hair happens to fall in the food and if that hair comes in his mouth, he gets mad and may shout out that the ugly hair was in the food. He abhors the very hair which looked so fascinating on the head of his beloved. Thus the concept of happiness is governed by the mental outlook prevailing from time to time and place to place.

One has to realize that the lasting happiness lies within and cannot be found by searching without. Outward happiness gives a semblance of pleasure, while inward happiness is the state of lasting beatitude and bliss. The ancient seers have explored this aspect and have come to the conclusion that true happiness can be gained by the absence of desire. Desire is the antithesis of satisfaction. Happiness can therefore be termed as the desireless state of mind.

**D**esirelessness can emerge from contentment. Contentment is thus the inalienable part of happiness. All the spiritual entities have therefore laid down to overcome the desire. Jainism has particularly laid emphasis on that aspect and has exhorted the spiritual aspirants to stay away from all sorts of desire. Therefore if one wants to be really happy, he needs to cultivate the sense of contentment that comes from within. The contentment is actually an attribute of the soul and can be experienced by self-realization.

The contentment can be gained by accepting the situations. Jainism lays down that different situations go on arising depending upon our past Karma. If such situations do not seem agreeable, we can try to change the same. Jainism does not forbid it. The spiritual science terms such effort as present or Vartamān Karma. If such Karma is stronger than the earlier Karma, we would be successful in changing the situation. If the earlier Karma is stronger, we would fail in our endeavor. But in either of the cases we should be willing to accept the consequences. That is the way to be happy with the situations that we gain from time to time. Since the disagreeable situations also arise on account of our own earlier Karma, we should accept them as arising out of our earlier inclination and should welcome them as guests having arrived in response to our invitation. We can surely remain careful not to invite them again. In other words, we need to refrain from acquiring new unwholesome Karma.

The question would arise how to welcome the disagreeable

situations. That would be easy if we recognize their nature. As stated above, they have come of our own invitation and are not going to leave at our instance. They are, however, essentially temporary and are going to leave in due course. No situation lasts forever. Then, why scramble to run away from something that we cannot escape from and which is going to leave of its own? That idea would make the situation bearable and acceptable.

When we talk of accepting the situations, we merely mean to accept the realities, the realities that exist at present. Just think over; is it possible to ignore the realities of life? If they are not agreeable, by all means try to change them. But fighting with the reality or ignoring it does not help. If we or some one close to us is facing some distress or is suffering from disease, ignoring that factor or simply worrying about that does not serve any purpose. The best way is to accept the realities as they are and then to think how to avert them.

Take the case of distressful disease. Suppose, during a medical check up it is detected that we have cancer. Being upset or worrying about the impending death would not help; on the other hand ignoring the reality of the disease can cause considerable harm. Instead, if we calmly accept the reality of that situation, we can better think of the measures to be taken to cure the disease or to alleviate the suffering. Maintaining the composure of mind in all such situations is thus of vital importance.

Acceptance of reality is all the more significant in spiritual field. In addition to accepting the present reality, that area demands acceptance of all time reality. That is the truth which prevails forever. There are two basic truths that every spiritual aspirant should stay aware of. 1) The body that we have got as a consequence of our Karma, is a composition and is subject to decay and/or decomposition. 2) Soul is an original substance that stays forever. The corollaries of these truths are obvious. Childhood, youth, aging, disease, death etc. are different states of the ephemeral body and we should remain equanimous in all such states. On the other hand, the soul, that is ourself, is ageless and immortal. It is indestructible, unbreakable, impermeable and incombustible. We have therefore nothing to fear about it and can stay cheerful and fearless in all the circumstances.

It is thus not necessary to hunt for any specific situation for the worldly as well as spiritual happiness. Worldly happiness emanates from accepting the situations that arise from time to time. It should be firmly set in mind that we need not look for any golden time when we could be happy. Actually, this is the time to be happy and this is the place to be happy. The way of being happy is to make others happy. The spiritual happiness, on the other hand, is inherent within and can be realized only during human life. Our endeavor should therefore be to manifest the same in this very life.

## Sponsor A Child

Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana, Pune, India

Tulsa Jain Sangh Inc.

Derasar Location: 7811 East Admiral Place, Tulsa, OK 74115

A Non-profit Tax Exempt Religious Organization

Jai Jinendra.

Deep in the subterranean crust under the soil of the Latur region in Maharashtra, India, two plates of rock as large as Japan came slightly unglued like two zippers going in opposite directions. A millisecond later, stones cobbled together by mere mud rained down from whipsawing walls and roofs onto families asleep in pre-dawn darkness. It was early hours of September 30<sup>th</sup> 1993. A 6.1 on rector scale earthquake had struck flattening one hundred and seven villages. Over twelve thousand died and 300,000 lost their homes and belongings in the deluge of rubble. Worst of all, about 5000 children in the age group of 1-13 became orphans or destitute.

BJS, an organization started by Mr. Shantilal Muttha who spent his early years in the orphanage, is committed to helping orphan and destitute children. Along with the 1000 children affected by Latur earthquake, BJS has brought in another 650 orphan children from rural Maharashtra, Melghat adivasi tribal area, and those affected by Jabalpur earthquake in April 1997.

With help from the Maharashtra government and the World Bank, an ultra modern complex consisting of a high school, a multi-disciplinary degree-level college, a technical training center, a hostel, and other support facilities was built at Wagholi near Pune. This center is known as **Wagholi Educational Rehabilitation Center (WERC)**. With this strong foundation in helping orphan children, BJS is reaching out to cover as many needy children as possible. These children will be given absolutely free schooling, clothes, medical attention, and all other needs till they graduate from the school.

BJS will continue to support these children, educate them, teach them lessons of humanity, and turn them into responsible citizens of our motherland India. All of us can help BJS' dedicated workers and their noble work by sponsoring a child. A small donation of \$200 can take care of all the expenses of a child for one full year including food, clothes, shelter, and education. The Tulsa Jain Sangh is helping BJS by communicating this message to you.

Please consider this: *less than 55 cents a day can shape life of an orphan child, our unfortunate younger brother or a sister*. If you can not sponsor a child, your one time monetary help will also be greatly appreciated. Thanks to god's grace, all of us are well to do and are lucky to be here in the land of opportunity. We request you to open your arms and respond to the call of our motherland. Remember, *the only wealth you can keep for ever is the wealth you have given away*.

### Details of the program

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- Sponsor will get photo and other details of a child
- Sponsor will be kept informed about ward's progress

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- Food, Education, Clothing and other needs of a child till graduation
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- Sponsor will be kept informed about ward's progress

#### Contact information:

Mehul and Trupti Rajparia

Phone: 918/249-8492

[shahr@yuba.com](mailto:shahr@yuba.com) or [trajparia@hotmail.com](mailto:trajparia@hotmail.com)

In India:

Shri Shantilal Muttha

President, BHARATIYA JAIN SANGHATANA

1184/4 Shivajinagar, F.C. Road, Pune 411 007, INDIA

Phone: 91-20-553 5080 or 350055, Fax 91-20-553 5524,

Mobile: 91-20-98220-82789 [mnprasad@pn2.vsnl.net.in](mailto:mnprasad@pn2.vsnl.net.in)

Please mail donations to:

Rasik Shah, JAINA Director

10766 East 29th Place, Tulsa, OK 74129-7806

Phone: 918/627-8440, [mrajparia@hotmail.com](mailto:mrajparia@hotmail.com)

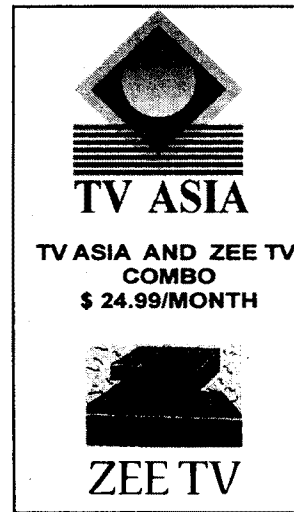
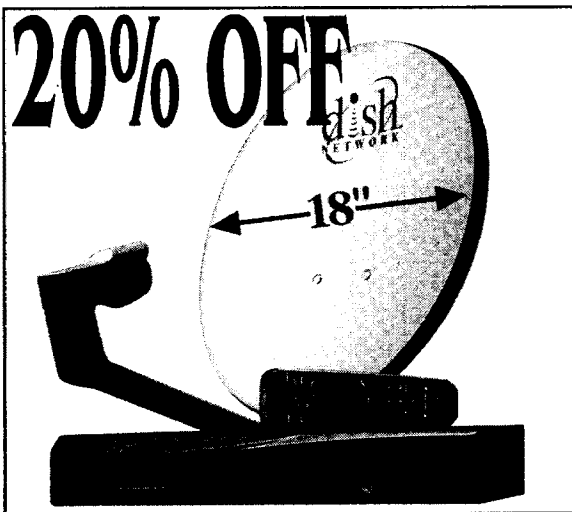
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**M300:** Parents invite proposals for handsome, talented, social, vegetarian, US born son, Feb 70, 5'11", 180 lb, MS (comm. net-working), well employed, from cultured, educated girls. Call: 201/387-2616.

**M319:** Gujarati parents invite responses for handsome, intelligent, vegetarian, US citizen son, born Dec 69, 5'7", MS (civil), well employed, from cultured, educated girls. Call: 313/791-8282.

**M508:** Correspondence invited for handsome, slender, JD, Jain Gujarati Attorney, 32, 5'10", graduate of an Ivy League Law School and practicing at prestigious law firm, from beautiful, slim, sophisticated, US raised girls, at least 5'4", caste, religion no bar. Photo must. Phone: 1-800-315-9844.

**M491:** Jain parents invite correspondence with biodata/photo, for handsome, fair, physician son, born Sept 71, 5'9", MD, from cultured, beautiful, vegetarian, professional girls. PO Box: 41054, Cleveland, OH 44141.

**M527:** Alliance invited from suitable, cultured, educated match, for Gujarati, good looking, vegetarian boy, born Feb 68, 5'6", 140 lb, MBBS, employed. Two months never consummated marriage. Call: 713/406-6841.

**M548:** Parents invite correspondence for very handsome/fair, vegetarian son, MS, PE, planning to pursue MBA, employed with a Fortune 500 Co., in NY, from pretty, cultured, educated girls. Call: 718/279-0874.

**M627:** Gujarati parents invite proposals for handsome, professional, talented. vegetarian, US raised son, born Nov 68, 5'6", 150 lb, JD (Law), well employed as Attorney, from cultured, educated girls. Call: 734/434-9286.

**M663:** Responses invited for a handsome, fair, vegetarian, Gujarati boy, born Oct 70, 5'10", 170, MBA, pursuing CFA, raised in India, well employed, from cultured, beautiful, professional girls. Call: 718/263-7237.

**M674:** Alliance invited by Industrialist Gujarati family for handsome, vivacious, self-made son, born January 71, 5'7", BS, pursuing MBA (NY Uni), partner in successful diamond/jewelry mfg co. in Manhattan. Call: 201/798-7150.

**M718:** Gujarati parents invite responses for handsome, fair, vegetarian son, born Jan 71, 5'6", 125 lb, MBA, well employed, from cultured, educated, vegetarian girls. Call: 949/509-6716 or 404/607-7866.

**M719:** Alliance invited for Gujarati, handsome, fair, vegetarian boy, born Dec 73, 5'7", 139 lb, BS, planning to pursue MS, well employed, from cultured, educated, vegetarian girls. Call: 920/996-0097 or 715/387-8286.

**M720:** Gujarati parents invite responses for good looking, intelligent, vegetarian son, born July 76, 5'11", 125 lb, BS (comp sc), well employed, from cultured, educated girls. Call: 860/673-7549.

**M724:** Sister invite proposals for ambitious, outgoing, accomplished, handsome, Gujarati, vegetarian brother, born Oct 68, 5'10", 145 lb, well educated, currently owns a successful business in India and willing to settle in USA. Call: 301/596-7347.

**M725:** Hindi speaking parents invite responses for handsome, talented, vegetarian, US raised son, born June 72, 5'9", 150 lb, BS, BA, candidate for MBA, well employed, from cultured, educated girls. Call: 860/657-2284.

**M726:** Gujarati parents invite responses for good looking, vegetarian son, born May 74, 5'11", BS (EE), well employed, from cultured, educated girls. Call: 718/476-1448.

**M730:** Alliance invited by Gujarati parents (surgeon/physician) for handsome, accomplished, talented, vegetarian son, born Nov 72, 5'6", 140 lb, MS (comp sc/engg), MS (ME), well employed with a reputed co., from cultured, well educated girls. Call: 248/608-8990.

**M731:** Gujarati parents invite proposals with biodata/photo for very handsome, fair, talented, entrepreneur, US citizen son, born June 75, 5'10", BS (mktg), well settled in Family business in Dubai, UAE, from educated Jain vegetarian girls having Indian cultural background. 15605 Oakglenn cir. Hughesville, MD 20637. Fax: 301/274-5979. Ph. 301/274-0740. E-Mail: newage@emirates.net.ae

**M735:** Alliance invited for handsome, intelligent, vegetarian, US citizen, Gujarati boy, born Oct 70, 5'4", 120 lb, BBA, well employed, having minor polio on Right leg, walk with cane, but totally independent, from suitable match. Call: 770/939-5227.

**M736:** Proposals invited for handsome, active, vegetarian Gujarati boy, born March 65, 5'3", 144 lb, Bcom, LLB, well employed with Dow Jones, from cultured, educated girls. Call: 732/721-7815.

**AM124:** Extremely handsome, fair, 6'1", 29, JD (law) plus MBA, athletic with dynamic personality, son. Prestigious loving, cultured, wealthy Gujarati Jain family seeks a compatible match. Call: 877/800-7636.

**AM214:** Practicing Surgeon seek educated, professional, active, vegetarian & pretty lady around forty years, residing in USA. Please mail biodata/returnable photo at: 11412 Rouen Drive, Potomac, MD 20854

**AM225:** Alliance invited for Gujarati, good looking, amiable, virtuous, vegetarian boy, born March 72, 5'7", 155 lb, MS (mfg engg), well employed with a reputed industry, from cultured, educated, vegetarian girls. Call: 765/448-4739.

**AM226:** Gujarati parents invite correspondence for handsome, fair, outgoing, vegetarian, US born son, July 73, 6'0", MD, starting residency, from attractive, educated girls. Call: 800/619-0595, access code 03.

**AM229:** Gujarati parents invite responses for talented, highly social, vegetarian, US born son, Oct 74, 5'10", 135 lb, BBA (mktg), well settled in business, from cultured, educated, vegetarian girls. Call: 281/277-5401.

## FEMALE

**F258:** Gujarati parents invite correspondence from professional boys from cultured families, for their slim, very beautiful, fair, intelligent, US born daughter, Aug 71, 5'6", MBA, well employed with Anderson. Call: 716/473-9290.

**F359:** Gujarati parents invite responses for beautiful, charming, US raised daughter, born Aug 70, 5'2", 105 lb, BS, own western ladies garment Business-NY City, from well settled Gujarati professionals. Call: 203/393-1403.

**F407:** Alliance invited for pretty, slim, intelligent, vegetarian Gujarati girl, born Sept 71, 5'5", 106 lb, BS, well employed as software engr., from cultured, well educated boys. Call: 410/531-2790

**F509:** Parents invite responses from MD, Professionals for their pretty, intelligent, cultured, vegetarian daughter, born Oct 69, MD Fellowship. Call: 972-414-6506.

**F511:** Gujarati parents invite responses for beautiful, talented, smart, vegetarian daughter, born Nov 72, 5'3", 110 lb, BS (biology), pursuing for BS Comp Sc, from cultured, educated match. Call: 949/509-6716.

**F564:** Gujarati parents invite correspondence from professional vegetarian boys, for their beautiful, fair, vivacious, US born daughter, Dec 75, 5'3", 115 lb, completing her study in allied health field. Call: 425/885-3335 or 206/915-9251.

**F574:** Alliance invited for pretty, charming, caring, polite, accomplished, vegetarian Hindi speaking girl, born Jan 71, 5'8", 125 lb, MTech (IIT) (comp sc), well employed as sr consultant, from cultured, professional boys. Call: 407/952-2574.

**F591:** Gujarati parents invite proposals from cultured, educated boys, for beautiful, talented, caring, active, vegetarian, US raised daughter, born Nov 71, 5'3", BS (pharmacy), well employed as Pharmacist. Call: 717/541-8274.

**F620:** Alliance invited for pretty, talented, vegetarian, Gujarati girl, born April 74, 5'3", 115 lb, BDS, Dentist, from cultured, well educated boys. She is visiting USA during June 1999. Call: 765/448-4739.

**F621:** Gujarati parents invite responses for beautiful, talented, vegetarian, US born daughter, Dec 73, 5'7", 3rd year Medical Student, from professional boys, preferably MD or Medical student. Call: 407/366-8810.

**F651:** Physician Parents invite responses for beautiful, intelligent, attractive, vegetarian, US born daughter, Jan 71, 5'3", 100 lb, 3rd year Medical Student, from professional, matching, cultured boys. Call: 914/633-1448.

**F654:** Alliance invited by Physician Parents for beautiful talented, charming, vegetarian, US born daughter, Sept 72, 5'3", 100 lb, JD (Harvard), Attorney, from matching, cultured, professional boys. Call: 914/633-1448.

**F661:** Responses invited for slim, beautiful, intelligent, caring, sober, vegetarian girl, born Sept 71, 5'5", BS (comp sc), Dip (comp tech), well employed, from cultured, educated boys. Call: 708/349-8818.

**F667:** Gujarati parents invite correspondence from sincere, caring, vegetarian, professional boys, for US raised, pretty, smart daughter, born Jan 73, 5'3", 105 lb, BS (EE), pursuing MS, well employed in silicon valley, hailing from close neat family, loves outdoors. Call: 717/678-7971.

**F715:** Gujarati parents invite proposals for slim, very beautiful, charming, exciting, vegetarian, US born daughter, Nov 74, 5'4", BS, pursuing MBA, from professional who has diversified interests and loves to laugh. Call: 732/287-2738.

**F716:** Jain parents invite proposals with biodata/photo, for beautiful, fair, charming, canadian citizen daughter, born July 73, 5'7", 124 lb, BS ME, well employed, from vegetarian, well settled professionals. Call: 514/684-9087.

**F717:** Gujarati family invites correspondence for slim, beautiful, fair, attractive, vegetarian daughter, born May 70, 5'6", 115 lb, BS (math), BS (comp sc), completing MS (inf & system engg) in Aug 99, well employed, from cultured, well educated boys. Call: 860/645-0227.

**F721:** Correspondence invited for 23 years old girl, family oriented, pretty, vegetarian, double major in comp sc/economics, with a blend of east/west culture and high moral values. Call: 416/878-1800. E.mail: tarun11@email.com

**F722:** Parents invite responses for beautiful, multitalented, vegetarian, US raised daughter, born July 70, 5'5", MD in intl medicine & pediatrics, from well educated, graduate professionals. Call: 609/772-0358.

**F723:** Sister invite proposals for beautiful, slender, charming, family loving, Gujarati vegetarian sister, born May 71, 5'7", 130 lb, BA (psychology), well employed, from cultured, educated, family-value persons. Currently in India and willing to settle in USA. Call: 301/596-7347.

**F727:** Gujarati parents invite proposals from well-educated professional boys, for slim, beautiful, fair, attractive, talented, vegetarian daughter, born July 76, 5'6", 115 lb, BS, currently full time pharmacy student. Call: 401/785-1752.

**F728:** Gujarati parents invite responses for charming, pretty, slim, vegetarian daughter, born July 75, 5'3", 105 lb, studied travel business, employed as travel consultant, from cultured, educated match. Call: 780/438-3072.

**F729:** Gujarati parents invite proposals for slim, pretty, talented, accomplished, vegetarian, US raised daughter, born June 75, 5'1", PharmD (Doctor of Pharmacy), well employed, from cultured, professional, vegetarian boys. Call: 847/965-4718.

**F732:** Alliance invited for pretty, intelligent, vegetarian Gujarati girl, born Oct 74, 4'8", 105 lb, BA (edu), from cultured, well educated boys. Call: 847/884-0601.

**F733:** Gujarati parents invite responses for beautiful, affectionate, vegetarian, US citizen daughter, born Aug 76, 5'3", 100 lb, BS (mole genetics), well employed, from cultured, educated boys. Call: 330/659-9715.

**F734:** Alliance invited from well educated, professional boys for beautiful, attractive, accomplished, vegetarian, Gujarati girl, born Nov 75, 5'3", 100 lb, MS (Comp), well employed as software engr in India and willing to settle in USA. Call: 630/904-8535.

**F737:** Gujarati parents invite proposals for very beautiful, attractive, talented, vegetarian, US raised daughter, born Oct 75, 5'5", BS, well employed as Accounting analyst, from cultured, well educated boys. Call: 818/349-5254.

**F738:** Gujarati parents invite responses for very pretty, charming, vegetarian, US born daughter, Sept 75, 5'1", 110 lb, BS well employed with Andersen Consulting, from cultured, educated boys. Call: 901/363-8430.

**F739:** Alliance invited from cultured, educated boys, for beautiful, smart, slim, vegetarian, intelligent, Gujarati girl, born Dec 72, 5'5", 115, BS, well employed as Visualizer in Bombay and willing to settle in USA. She is currently on a visit to USA. Call: 201/861-6557

**F740:** Gujarati parents invite alliance for very pretty, slim, accomplished, smart, vegetarian, US raised daughter, born Sept 76, 5'5", 110 lb, BA, well employed as Asst. Manager in a reputed Bank, from cultured, professional boys. Call: 804/973-7148.

**F741:** Gujarati parents invite responses for pretty, charming, smart, caring, intelligent, vegetarian daughter, born Nov 74, 5'3", MS (phy therapy), from cultured, educated boys. Call: 410/902-8383.

**F742:** Alliance invited by Gujarati family for very beautiful, charming, caring, amiable, vegetarian daughter, raised in India, born Oct 69, 5'2", 110 lb, Dip. Beauty Therapy, professional beautician, innocent divorcee, visiting USA, from suitable cultured boys. Call: 908/233-5344.

**F743:** Alliance invited for Gujarati, good looking, smart, vegetarian girl, born March 70, 5'3", BCom, from suitable, cultured, educated match. Call: 732/438-6594.

**AF121:** Exceptionally beautiful, very fair, charming, 25, 5'7", 112 lb, MS, pursuing JD (law) with full scholarship, talented, dancer, highly virtuous, loving, family oriented daughter. Prestigious Gujarati Jain family invites photo and biodata. Call: 877/800-7636.

**AF171:** Alliance invited by Gujarati parents for very beautiful, fair, highly accomplished, US raised daughter, born Feb 72, 5'5", MD, doing residency, from professional boys, preferably MD. Call: 419/868-7476.

**AF212:** Alliance invited from suitable match for pretty, attractive, highly accomplished, vegetarian, Gujarati, UK born girl, Nov 63, 5'2", MBBS, MRCP, USA Board eligible in Family Practice, currently practicing in London and willing to settle in USA. Visiting USA shortly. Call: 609/751-3884.

**AF223:** Gujarati parents invite correspondence for slim, beautiful, intelligent daughter, born Dec 74, 5'5", MS (civil & environ. Engg), well employed, from Gujarati Jain professional boys or their families. Call: 972/395-1481. E.mail: ekta\_kamdar@hotmail.com

**AF224:** Gujarati parents invite responses from well-educated, progressive, professionals residing in Dallas/FT worth area, for their beautiful, outgoing, US born daughter, March 74, 5'2", 115 lb, Masters in Education. Call between 5-8 pm EST. 937/864-1668.

**AF227:** Gujarati parents invite correspondence for beautiful, very attractive, caring, intelligent vegetarian, US born daughter, Nov 71, 5'6", MS (environ engg), working as engineer on west coast, from well educated professionals. Call: 800/619-0595, access code 03.

**AF228:** Alliance invited by uncle from suitable match, for beautiful, fair, talented, charming, vegetarian, Gujarati niece, born Oct 68, 5'4", BSc, Dip (fashion designing), well employed as Fashion Designer with American co., in Bombay and willing to settle in USA. Call: 850/656-8010.

**AF230:** Gujarati prestigious family invite proposals for very beautiful, fair, affectionate, charming, vegetarian, accomplished daughter, 31, 5'5", BS, Dip comp, nursery, from cultured, educated boys. She runs own nursery school in Bombay and willing to settle in USA. Now on a visit to USA. Call: 727/787-8033.

**AF231:** Aunt seeks alliance from educated professionals for her Kutchhi, Jain niece, Divorcee, 32, 5'1", attractive, smart, vegetarian, US citizen, pursuing CPA. Call: 217/342-3600 after 5.00 pm.

**AF232:** Alliance invited for beautiful, charming, slim, US born, India raised girl, Dec 72, 5'1", 95 lb, MD, third year resident (Radiology), from cultured, well educated, professional boys. Call: 703/486-8353 or 202/483-9106.



### Guideline to all perspective participants

Be positive, constructive, creative and friendly! No match is going to be “perfect.” Complement and support each other practicing respect, sharing, acquire knowledge and maintaining your uniqueness while keeping an open mind. These are the qualities that make for human perfection. Our world is shrinking and we are a global village and life is not always easy. However, we can carry our philosophy and our value system that is very worth while, with us. Accept the challenge and make your choice be a worth while one.

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Anyone wishing to place an ad and register with the MIS—Marriage Information Service—must follow these instructions *carefully*:

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- a recent, full-length photo of yourself with your name printed on the back

Upon receipt of this information the MIS will draft an ad for you and it will appear in the JAIN DIGEST—but only once. Remember, JAIN DIGEST is a quarterly publication.

### Placing an Ad Only

If you do not wish to register with the MIS and wish to draft an ad yourself, you may do so in *30 words or less*. Remember, that the MIS reserves the right to edit all such ads. Follow step ② above, but submit your own ad instead of a completed form and photo.

As a rule, all MIS ads include the phone number of the registrant. However, if you do not wish to publish your phone number, you must specifically notify Hasamukh M. Shah.

### Responding to an Ad

All those wishing to respond to an ad must follow these step-by-step instructions. Place your bio-data and a recent photograph of yourself in a sealed, stamped envelope with your return address in the upper left-hand corner and the MIS ad reference number in the lower left-hand corner of the envelope. Leave space on the envelope for an address.

Place this envelope in another envelope with your return address in the upper left-hand corner and mail it to Hasamukh M. Shah (see address above).

Upon receipt of these responses the MIS will place the ad holders address on the inner envelope and mail it.

Remember, MIS is not responsible for responses that do not conform to these instructions.

### Please notify the MIS

Please notify the MIS when an engagement or marriage has been announced. This helps us to know if this community service is working to help maintain our traditions.

Please note that if a successful alliance has taken place, both parties will agree to donate what ever amount they wish to JAINA to help defray the cost of publication.

### Important Considerations

It is important to remember that the MIS is a non-for-profit, voluntary community service. The MIS and JAINA assume no responsibility or liability for the accuracy or authenticity of the information furnished in the ads or any consequences resulting thereof. The entire responsibility rests with the candidates themselves.

All information furnished to the MIS is confidential. Only those who are sincerely interested in looking for a Jain life partner should send a Registration Form. While matching, photographs will not be passed on to the candidates by the MIS.

Parents/guardians should communicate with the candidate before placing ad and assist them in making a final decision.

### Congratulations!

JAINA would like to congratulate all couples who have come together with the help of the services of the MIS. JAINA wishes to thank them for their generous donation.

The following candidates who have registered/listed with the Marriage Information Service are married/engaged, with the help of this service:

F098, 127, 139, 151, 152, 159, 188, 196, 206, 257, 268, 299, 316, 366, 378, 382, 385, 387, 393, 397, 398, 426, 447, 457, 462, 465, 483, 490, 492, 536, 542, 545, 555, 570, 578, 590, 635, 668. AF74, 90, 106, 101, 110, 137, 165, 176, 180.

M181, 199, 237, 254, 275, 284, 286, 287, 304, 321, 330, 336, 342, 343, 344, 364, 388, 389, 395, 400, 405, 411, 417, 422, 438, 445, 446, 448, 450, 452, 459, 470, 479, 535, 536, 538, 551, 561, 575, 582, 583, 596, 617, 624, 672. AM79, 89, 104, 107, 114, 120, 135, 169, 186.

More and more Jains around the world are not only appreciating this much needed service, but are also taking advantage of it. Simultaneously, the flow of ads in JAIN DIGEST is gradually increasing.

## MIS REGISTRATION FORM — PAGE 1

Send this completed form, a check in the amount of \$25 and a recent,  
full-length photograph of yourself with your name printed on the back to:  
Hasmukh M. Shah, 8721 Scrimshaw Drive,  
New Port Richey, FL 34653-6623

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET CITY STATE ZIP

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a vegetarian? YES NO Do you smoke? YES NO Do you drink? YES NO

Have you been married before? YES NO

If yes, indicate the name of your divorced spouse. \_\_\_\_\_

What is your visa status in the USA/Canada? \_\_\_\_\_ When did you enter the USA/Canada? \_\_\_\_\_  
MONTH/YEAR

What languages do you speak? \_\_\_\_\_ What is your religion? \_\_\_\_\_

What languages do you read? \_\_\_\_\_

What languages do you write? \_\_\_\_\_

Education: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEGREE YEAR RECEIVED MAJOR NAME OF UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE

Work experience: \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPANY'S NAME POSITION DURATION

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Brother(s) and/or Sister(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME(S) AGE(S) EDUCATION OCCUPATION

Do you have other relatives living in the North America? \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME RELATIONSHIP OCCUPATION ADDRESS

Other relevant information (use additional paper if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*The MIS and JAINA assume no liability or responsibility for the accuracy or authenticity of the information herein, nor the consequences resulting thereof.*

**1. Two references who are members of the Jain Community or other Indian organizations.**

A. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION'S NAME

B. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION'S NAME

**2. Indicate your personal preference of these criteria for the match.**

Age: Between the ages of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ or open.

Height: Between the height of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ or open.

Weight: Between the weight of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ or open.

Education: ☐ Bachelor ☐ Masters Degree ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian: YES NO Work experience: YES NO

Residence: (state) \_\_\_\_\_ Visa Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of time in North America: \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Language. English: YES NO Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Photograph**

Attach a recent, full-length photograph of yourself with your name printed on the back. Please note: no photographs will be exchanged while matching is taking place.

# SIDDHA CHAKRA MAHA-POOJAN

SUNDAY JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> 1999  
MAIN HALL, CONVENTION CENTER

To Be Performed By Narendra Nandu And Group at 12:30 PM

<u>Name of Pooja</u>	<u>Approx. Maximum</u>		<u>Donation</u>
	<u>Time</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Per Couple</u>
1. Arihant Pad	45 min.	Two Couples	\$2501
2. Siddha Pad	10 min.	Two Couples	\$1501
3. Acharya Pad	10 min.	Two Couples	\$1001
4. Upadhyay Pad	10 min.	Two Couples	\$1001
5. Sadhu Pad	10 min.	Two Couples	\$1001
6. Darshan Pad	10 min.	Two Couples	\$1001
7. Gyaan Pad	10 min.	Two Couples	\$1001
8. Charitra Pad	10 min.	Two Couples	\$1001
9. Tap Pad	10 min.	Two Couples	\$1001
10. Swar Pad	10 min.	Two Couples	\$ 501
11. Anahat	10 min.	Two Couples	\$ 351
12. 48 Labdhi Pad	30 min.	Two Couples	\$1501
13. Eight Guru Paduka	10 min.	Two Couples	\$ 351
14. Adhishthayak Dev	30 min.	Two Couples	\$1001
15. Eight Jaya Devi	10 min.	Two Couples	\$ 351
16. Sol (16) Vidya Devi	10 min.	Two Couples	\$ 351
17. 24 Yaksha/24 Yakshini	10 min.	Two Couples	\$ 351
18. Char (4) Dwaarpaal	10 min.	Two Couples	\$ 351
19. Char (4) Veer	10 min.	Two Couples	\$ 351
20. Dus (10) Digpal	10 min.	Two Couples	\$ 351
21. Indra/Indrani	15 min.	One Couple	\$ 1001
22. Nav (9) Graha	10 min.	Two Couples	\$ 1001
23. Bhoot bali	10 min.	Two Couples	\$ 351
24. Abhishek	30 min.	Two Family	\$ 1501
25. Aarti	5 min.	* One Family	Gheeboli
26. Mangal Deevo	5 min.	* One Family	Gheeboli
27. Shanti Kalesh	10 min.	* One Family	Gheeboli

**Notes:** 1. Pooja participants must have taken bath and wear Pooja clothes. Pooja Samagrihi (supplies) will be made available at the Convention hall including dhoti for men.

2. Pooja will start at 12:30 pm and end at 5:00pm Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1999. Participants must be available at their time.

3. Poojan collection will not be used for Swamivatsalya but for Temple and other things.

\* 4. More than one family may participate or join together. You may participate in more than one Pooja.

# 10th Biennial Convention Update

## PROGRAM UPDATE

### 1. SIDDHA CHAKRA MAHA POOJAN

Please select your pooja and send your check with name and address.

### 2. CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME)

A CME seminar for Physicians and Non-Physicians is arranged through Jefferson University. It is Category 1. 4 Hours. The rate for Physician is \$ 150.00 and Non-Physician is \$ 75.00. The Seminar is on health issues with particular emphasis on illness affecting people from the Indian subcontinent. Please make your cheque payable to Convention 99 and send your registration to CME Convention 99, Samarpan Jain Sangh, 9701 Bustleton Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19115 USA

### 3. MARRIAGE INFORMATION SERVICE (MIS)

Please reserve your seats for Saturday program at \$ 50.00 per person.

### 4. AWARD CEREMONY

This will entitle you to a drama "Patan Ni Prabhuta" in Gujarati and dinner. It also entitles you to a special seating through out convention.

### 5. JAIN ART MUSEUM

There will be an Exhibition of Jain art at the Art Museum of Philadelphia during the convention days. Busses will be arranged for the delegates to attend this exhibition. June 26<sup>th</sup> Saturday 1 PM is inauguration of the Jain Art Exhibition. All are requested to come. Admission is free.

## CONVENTION BOARD MEMBERS

Convenors:	Devendra & Dr. Meeta Peer
Cultural Programs	Dr. Mahendra & Hansa Shah Praful Mehta & Karnika Mehta
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Registration:	Velji & Dr. Champa Bid
Souvenir	Tansukh Maru and Hansa Shah
Speakers	Dr. Vinod & Dr. Rasila Shah
Volunteers:	Vinod Mandalia & Deepak Doshi
Youth	Canon Ghelani

### Siddha Chakra Maha-Poojan pledge form:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Pooja/Poojas(in order of preference) \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail form to: "Convention 99" – SJS

Phone: (215) 464-7676

Samarpan Jain Sangh  
9701 Bustleton Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19115

Fax: (215) 677-9919



**With best compliments to JAINA**

**Dr. Navin C. Mehta,  
M.B.B.S., M.D., P.C.**

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HEAD & NECK  
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**ASSISTANT CLINICAL PROFESSOR  
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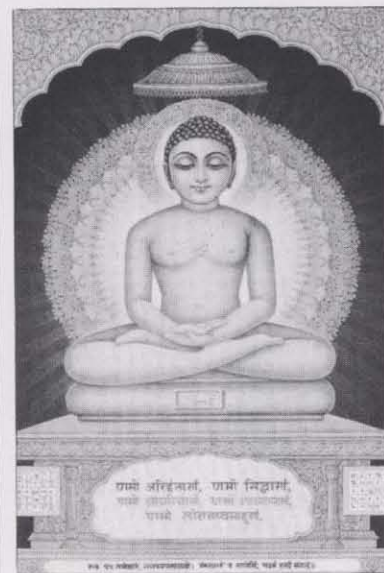
**303 2nd AVENUE, SUITE 10  
NEW YORK CITY, NY 10003  
(212) 505-9640**



Tirthankar Parsavnath



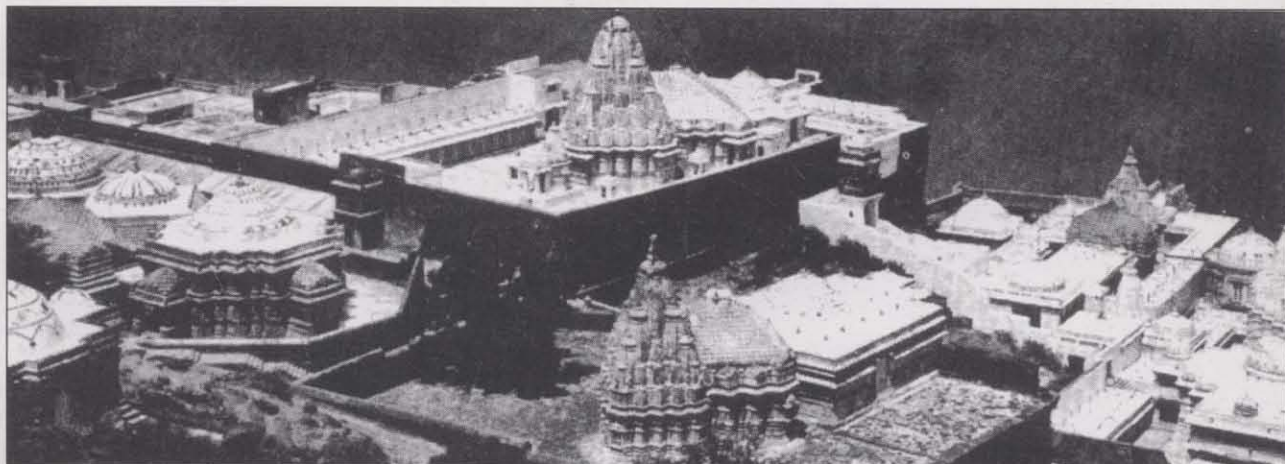
Jain temple format



Tirthankar Mahavir

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